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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Churia Range is the outermost of the Himalayan mountain range stretching across southern Nepal. The Churia Range is composed of fragile, brittle sedimentary limestone and clay conglomerate deposits. The forests within the Churia Range perform a vital ecological function by stabilizing the structurally weak steep slopes from erosion during the monsoon season. These forested watersheds are also important for sustaining and regulating river flows, an important ecosystem service that sustains local communities, the agro-based economy, and the economically and ecologically significant biodiversity, including Bengal tigers and Asian elephants. Increasingly, however, local populations, including poverty-stricken people marginalized into the Churia Range, who have little or no access to resources clear the forest and ground cover opportunistically and engage in unsustainable agro-pastoral practices. The situation is further exacerbated by the impact of climate change, which has led to less predictable weather events. For these reasons, forest loss and land degradation are becoming more intense and widespread in the Churia Range, with consequent loss of life and livelihood-supporting forest and agro-ecosystem services.

In early 2012, the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM) enacted the National Land Use Policy 2012 to address rapid land degradation across the country. The National Land Use Policy aims to classify and manage land for optimum long-term use. However, the policy has been difficult to enforce because of unclear and often conflicting policies and complex tenure issues in more populated regions like the Churia Range. As a result, there is a 'tragedy of the commons' situation in the Churia Range in which responsibility, accountability, and long-term sustainability are absent. In addition to the National Land Use Policy, the importance of the Churia Range was specifically acknowledged by the Government of Nepal with the formulation of the President Churia Conservation Programme in 2011. This program aims to stop further degradation of the environment in the Churia Range and promote rural development among local communities.

While these baseline activities are addressing land degradation, lack of capacity and limited manpower and budget will likely present challenges that impact the success of the President Churia Conservation Programme. In order to address the baseline situation, there is a clear need to improve the management capacity and sustainable conservation principles of local communities. In light of the Churia Range's key role in regulating ecosystem services from agro-ecosystems and forests across the wider landscape, it represents the ideal location in Nepal to implement pilot demonstration activities. These demonstration activities will empower decision makers, natural resource managers, and local communities to sustainably manage their natural resources.

The proposed three-year GEF Medium Sized Project aims to substantially reduce degradation in 2,500 ha of agro-pastoral lands and 5,000 ha of forests by 2017 through integrated land and watershed management, and will work in strategic locations under community conservation in four pilot Churia Range districts. The project will achieve this objective by: a) promoting sustainable agricultural and livestock management practices; b) engaging local communities in forest conservation; and c) creating the enabling conditions for inter-sectoral collaboration for sustainable land use and management. This project is closely aligned with the GEF Land Degradation focal areas, specifically LD Strategic Objective 1: *Maintain or improve flows of*

agro-ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities, and LD Strategic Objective 3: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape.

This project will collaborate with district line agencies of the technical ministries to introduce and implement innovative and sustainable agro-pastoral systems and community forest management to substantially reduce land degradation in the four districts. The technologies and techniques will include climate-smart, terraced agriculture to reduce erosion, as well as uphill water storage for irrigation to reduce climate vulnerability. In addition, the project will identify and redress relevant policy gaps to provide secure land tenure, and improve land use planning and land allocation through better inter-sectoral coordination, institutionalization and implementation. This project will prioritize institutional capacity building, mechanisms and fora for coordinated inter-sectoral land and resource use planning, and will support district-level land use planning and analyses to identify important and sensitive areas for restoration and conservation. Successful implementation of the project will do more than support the pilot districts by demonstrating to the surrounding region and key stakeholders the innovative tools that can be replicated and up-scaled across the country.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BZMC	Buffer Zone Management Committee
BZUC	Buffer Zone User Committee
CBDP	Community Based Disaster Preparedness
CBRP	Corridors and Bottlenecks Restoration Project
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CHAL	Chitwan Annapurna Landscape
DDC	District Development Committee
DFCC	District Forest Coordination Committee
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
F&A	Finance and Administration
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users of Nepal
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GoN	Government of Nepal
IPNMS	Integrated Plant Nutrient Management System
IWRMP	Irrigation and Water Resource Management Project
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan for Action
LFLP	Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoAD	Ministry of Agriculture Development
MoAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
MoLRM	Ministry of Land Reform and Management
MoSTE	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
NAP	National Action Programme
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NTNC	National Trust for Nature Conservation
PABZ	Protected Area and Buffer Zone
PACT	Project for Agriculture Commercialization and Trade
PCC	Project Coordination Committee
PSC	Project Steering Committee
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
SWC	Social Welfare Council
TAL	Terai Arc Landscape
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND AND SITUATION ANALYSIS

1.1. Background and Context:

Nepal can be classified into five physiographic regions – the Tibetan Plateau, the Higher (Tethyan) Himalaya, the Lesser Himalaya, the Siwalik, and the Terai. Located in the southernmost range of the Himalaya, the Churia Range consists of the Terai and the Siwalik regions.¹ The Churia Range has an elevation ranging from 500 to 2,500 m and is the lowest of the three mountain ranges that comprise the Himalayan Range. Nepal hosts a wide range of climates over a short distance, from sub-tropical in the south to alpine conditions in the north, with the Himalayan Mountain Range and South Asian monsoon heavily influencing the country's climate.

The last Forest Resource Assessment of Nepal shows that there are approximately 4.27 million hectares of forest, 1.56 million hectares of shrub land and degraded forest, 1.7 million hectares of grassland, 3.0 million hectares of farmland, and about 1.0 million hectares of uncultivated lands.² The rate of deforestation in the Churia Range varies between 0.06 to 1.7% per year.^{3,4} This has further been complicated by increases in cultivated land use by slightly over one percent. In 2008, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology identified approximately 28 percent of Nepal's total land area as degraded (classified as poorly managed forests, sloping terraces and pastures, and areas damaged by floods and landslides).⁵

Unlike the high Himalayas, the Churia Range is structurally and geologically weak and brittle, as it is composed of sedimentary limestone and clay conglomerate deposits. Soils found in the slopes and the foothills of the Churia Range are very shallow and are underlain by rocks and gravel. In this thin soil mantle, trees, shrubs, and vegetation thrive. Forests within the Churia Range are predominately sal (*shorea robusta*) forest. Other vegetation types include grasslands, riverine forests (khair, sissoo and simal), and chirpine (*pinus roxburghii*). The forests of the Churia Range perform a vital ecological function by stabilizing the fragile slopes and preventing erosion and landslides, which are common occurrences where the forests have been cleared or degraded. The Churia Range is thus a landscape that is highly prone to land degradation from erosion, unsustainable extraction of natural resources, and unsustainable agricultural and livestock management practices. The resulting land degradation, if allowed to continue unchecked, will threaten lives and livelihoods across the region.

¹ Note: Nepal's National Action Programme for the UNCCD (MOPE, 2002. Nepal: National Action Programme on Land Degradation and Desertification in the Context of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Ministry of Population and Environment, Kathmandu, Nepal) refers to this mountain range as the Siwaliks. The Churia is a Nepali name for the Siwaliks within the country, and this proposal uses the Nepali term.

² MoFSC (2002) *Nepal biodiversity strategy*. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation

³ Nepal Forestry Outlook Study. Nepal Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and FAO. 2009.

⁴ Rana and Vickers. 2005. Return of the Churia Forests. GOPA Consultants.

⁵ MoEST (2008b) *Thematic assessment report on land degradation*. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology

Overgrazing and deforestation also cause the fragile Churia Range to experience significant sedimentation of river beds, which exacerbates erosion of river embankments from channeled water flows. Degraded forest land, as well as agricultural land lacking forest cover, is most prone to run-off, soil erosion, and landslides during intense rain events that typically occur in July, August and September. During flooding, these rivers are capable of carrying large debris considerable distances and are capable of massive river-cutting, increased sediment loads, changes in river courses, destruction of property and infrastructure, and possible loss of livestock and human life. Downstream farmers and communities can be heavily affected by even slight changes in geomorphology and hydrology.

The Churia Range forests are also the watersheds for the Terai region, recharging the ground water, supporting agricultural production, and protecting the land from flooding. Thus, the Churia Range provides vital ecosystem goods and services that support the livelihoods of local communities and those downstream. Because precipitation is strongly tied to the monsoon season, river flow regulation for sustainable flows throughout the year is essential, especially to support the agriculture in southern regions, called the ‘rice bowl’ of Nepal because of its contribution to the agriculture-based economy. The Churia Range is important for safeguarding the lives and properties of downstream communities by regulating the flow of water through the monsoon and dry seasons. Thus, negative impacts on these hydrological functions resulting from land degradation represent significant threats to the lives and livelihoods of the people in the Churia Range and across the broader Terai region.

The Churia Range forests also support several globally important plant and animal species, including Bengal tigers and the Asian elephant.^{6,7,8} The Churia Range represents an important corridor for dispersal of Bengal tigers, one of Nepal’s iconic and endangered species^{9,10}. The Churia Range is also an important winter habitat for a suite of altitudinal and regional migrant birds.¹¹ These species help to sustain a thriving, globally-acclaimed tourism industry in Nepal. Tourism constitutes more than 4 percent of Nepal’s GDP and represents over 25 percent of the foreign exchange earnings, making it a major contributor to the country’s economy and supports many local livelihoods. Thus, degradation of the Churia Range will result in far-reaching, cascading threats to the lives and livelihoods of the people and to socio-political and economic stability in Nepal.

⁶ Basnet, K., P. Shrestha, K.A. Shah, and P. Ghimere. 2000. Biodiversity assessment of corridors linking Annapurna Conservation Area and Chitwan National Park-Parsa Wildlife Reserve. In: Chitwan Annapurna Linkage. Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation Planning. WWF Nepal Program.

⁷ Shrestha, T.B. and R.M. Joshi. 1996. Rare, endemic and endangered plants of Nepal. WWF Nepal Program, Kathmandu, Nepal;

⁸ Wikramanayake, E.D., C. Carpenter, H. Strand, and M. McKnight. 2001. Ecoregion-Based Conservation in the Eastern Himalaya. Identifying Important Areas for Biodiversity Conservation. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

⁹ Wikramanayake, E., A. Manandhar, S. Bajimaya, S. Nepal, G. Thapa, K. Thapa. 2010. The Terai Arc Landscape: A tiger conservation success story in a human-dominated landscape. In R. Tilson and P. Nyhus, eds. *Tigers of the World* (2nd edition): The Science, Politics, and Conservation of *Panthera tigris*. Elsevier/Academic Press. Pages 161-172

¹⁰ Seidensticker, J., E. Dinerstein, S. P. Goyal, B. Gurung, A. Harihar, A.J.T. Johnsingh, A. Manandhar, C. McDougal, B. Pandav, M. Shrestha, J.L. D. Smith, M. Sunquist, E. Wikramanayake. 2010. Tiger range collapse and recovery at the base of the Himalayas. In: David Macdonald, Andrew Loveridge, eds. *The Biology and Conservation of Wild Felids*. Oxford University Press. 305–323

¹¹ BCN and DNPWC. 2011. *The State of Nepal’s Birds 2010*. Bird Conservation Nepal and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Kathmandu.

Social Context: Nepal is predominantly an agrarian society. The livelihoods and economic progress of a significant percentage of Nepalese people depends primarily on the country's wealth of natural resources. The agricultural sector alone contributes about 35 percent to GDP and is the main source of employment for over 76 percent of the population.¹² Approximately 85 percent of Nepalese live in rural areas and depend on traditional agricultural technology. The natural resource base is closely linked with traditional agricultural technology, and the populations, especially the poor who have few assets, are heavily dependent on forests for their subsistence livelihoods. Forests fulfill their water, fuel wood, fodder, non-timber forest products, and timber needs. Fuel wood is the main source of energy in households, and small and traditional industries. Land requirements for infrastructure development also increase deforestation. One study estimates that 40 percent of forest fires were accidental and 60 percent were deliberate.¹³

Despite the importance of forests in maintaining ecological balance and supporting livelihoods and economic development, Nepal's forests have been reduced to a fraction of the original forest cover.¹⁴ Drivers of forest loss and degradation include high dependency on forests and forest products; unsustainable harvesting; forest fires; encroachment; overgrazing; resettlement; and infrastructure development. Underlying causes include increasing demand for land; landlessness; lack of alternative livelihood opportunities; inefficient use of resources; agriculture expansion; market failure; weak law enforcement and governance; new economic growth prospects; and ad hoc policy processes.¹⁵ Poverty and population growth also play a critical underlying role.

Climate Change: Climate change is increasingly becoming a major threat to the people and biodiversity of Nepal. According to a 2012 government report, currently more than 1.9 million people are highly vulnerable to climate change and 10 million are increasingly at risk.¹⁶ The most sensitive sectors are agriculture, forestry, water and energy, health, urban and infrastructure, tourism, industry, and overall livelihoods and economy. The increasingly unpredictable weather patterns include warmer and drier winters, drought, changes in the monsoon rain patterns, and more intense precipitation events. In mountain regions the warmer, drier winters with limited snowfall and rain in the last few years have affected winter crops and contributed to food shortages. In the Churia Range, more intense flash floods and cold spells are destroying crops, and severe flooding has resulted in temporary displacement of people.

The changes in temperature and rainfall are creating favorable environments for pests, diseases and invasive species to emerge, spread and encroach on agricultural and forest lands, and cause loss of biodiversity. Average temperatures in Nepal have increased at a rate of 0.06°C between 1977 and 1994, and the precipitation in eastern Nepal shows an increasing trend while the

¹² CBS (2011b) *Nepal living standard survey 2010/11*. Kathmandu, Nepal: Central Bureau of Statistics

¹³ MoEnv (2012) *Mountain Environment and Climate Change in Nepal: National Report prepared for the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change*, 5-6 April 2012, Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal

¹⁴ Singh B.K., Smith P. and Sharma K. 2009. *An Assessment of Climate Change, Forests and Biodiversity in Nepal*. USAID.

¹⁵ MFSC. 2010. *Nepal's Readiness Preparation Proposal 2010 – 2013*. Government of Nepal, Kathmandu.

¹⁶ MoEnv (2012) *Mountain Environment and Climate Change in Nepal: National Report prepared for the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change*, 5-6 April 2012, Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal

western and central parts of Nepal face a negative trend of less than 700 mm per decade.¹⁷ The increase in temperatures and less predictable rainfall has also resulted in shifts in agro-ecological zones and prolonged dry spells.

Biodiversity: Increased intensity and frequency of forest fires, floods and landslides have had significant adverse impacts on Nepal's biodiversity. Forest loss and land degradation are resulting in the loss of habitat of iconic and endemic species. In addition, some non-timber forest product species are declining, affecting food and income sources of rural communities (e.g. edible fruits and vegetables from forests). Water resources have also been affected, with direct impacts on wetlands, the availability and quality of freshwater, and water recharge systems important for wildlife, irrigation and hydropower.

1.2. Global Significance:

Land degradation from anthropogenic over-exploitation of natural resources and unsustainable land use practices is global in scope and extent.^{18,19,20} The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), backed by international support and cooperation, is considered to be one of the more powerful instruments available to combat land degradation through better management of land ecosystems. The Convention offers the countries that are party to it opportunities to promote and pursue sustainable land use, including establishing functional linkages with climate change and biodiversity conventions.

Like many places around the globe, land degradation in Nepal is the result of an increasing population with greater resource demands, which places increased pressure on land and land-based resources through over-harvest of forests and forest products, over-grazing by livestock, and cultivation of marginal lands to meet the resource deficits. These activities lead to soil erosion, and loss of soil nutrients and fertility. Degraded lands then result in a decline in biological and/or economic productivity of agricultural lands, pastures, and forests. In Nepal, landslides are common on degraded slopes of hills and mountains, causing further economic losses from damage to infrastructure. Landslides also cause environmental damage and endanger the lives and properties of people.

Land degradation can be substantially reduced through the adoption of sustainable agriculture management programs that are complemented by wider landscape conservation approaches. National development plans that implement these approaches require technical, financial and management capacities. Policies promoting agricultural growth are the key to achieve environmental sustainability, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals. Sustainable land use management is an essential component of such policies that will help to ensure best practices in agriculture and conservation. Not only will a range of ecosystem services be

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ Foley, J. A. *et al.* Global consequences of land use. *Science (New York, N.Y.)* 309, 570–4 (2005).

¹⁹ Rands, M. R. W. *et al.* Biodiversity conservation: challenges beyond 2010. *Science (New York, N.Y.)* 329, 1298–303 (2010).

²⁰ Ehrlich, P. R., Kareiva, P. M. & Daily, G. C. Securing natural capital and expanding equity to rescale civilization. *Nature* 486, 68–73 (2012).

supported on which agriculture and conservation strategies depend, but tertiary socio-economic benefits are also achieved.

Due to the lack of public interest in many marginal areas, government investment in these areas is often low. Low levels of infrastructure development and other government support services can result in preventing these areas from being productive landscapes for both the surrounding environment and the communities whose livelihoods depend on their health. Populations pushed into these marginalized areas, such as the Churia Range, are often hard pressed to make a living from highly fragile resources. It is essential that regions like the Churia Range address land degradation problems in an integrated manner, with support mechanisms in place to face larger scale threats such as climate change and population growth. Experiences garnered by this project may be applied in other parts of the world to assist other at-risk landscapes and communities to better prepare for current and emerging global threats.

Furthermore, a significant tertiary benefit of the proposed project will be improved wildlife corridors for globally significant at-risk mega fauna. As noted above, populations of Bengal tiger and the Asian elephant rely on the Churia Range at various stages of their life history. Maintaining the important flow of ecosystem services in both the agricultural lands and the wider Churia Range forest landscape will be critical for protection of these species, and maintaining the biodiversity of the globally significant Himalayan Mountains.

1.3. Threats

The technical team conducted a rating of identified threats to environmental conservation in the Churia Range. A list of threats and their relative strength in terms of their impact on the environment is provided below:

- a. **Unsustainable and illegal harvest of timber:** Community forestry has been very effective in the Churia Range of Nepal. The management of forests by local communities has regulated and controlled the extraction and consumption of timber. However, unsustainable and illegal harvest of timber persists, and continues to be a threat to forests managed both by communities and the government across the region. The unsustainable and illegal harvest of timber is a result of localized needs for subsistence consumption, as well as for sale in national and international markets.
- b. **Encroachment on forest areas by communities:** Encroachment in forest areas happens when communities face forced migration from their own lands due to natural calamities or socio-political reasons. These people encroach on forest areas under government jurisdiction, since there is de facto open access to forest resources, and convert forest lands for other uses such as settlements and agricultural land. There is a trend of migration from the mid hills to the Churia, and the incoming people occupy the forest land without land tenure. The encroachment thus accelerates the extension of agricultural land and the unsustainable harvest of forest resources.

- c. **Decreased soil fertility:** The use of chemical fertilizers is widespread in Nepal, as there is no regulatory framework to limit its application. Local communities use chemical fertilizers and exotic seed varieties that temporarily improve crop yields, but which decrease soil fertility in the long term. Parts of the Churia practice rotational cropping, which helps improve soil fertility conditions. However, the desire for improved crop productivity results in excessive fertilizer use in many areas across the region. Deforestation and forest degradation, unsustainable land management, and denuded top soil easily lost during the monsoon season also decrease soil fertility.
- d. **Unsustainable extraction of NTFPs:** The use of NTFPs in the Churia Range contributes to the livelihoods of local communities. The consumption of NTFPs for subsistence specifically contributes to nutrition and economic well-being across the region. However, the over-harvesting of NTFPs at unsustainable levels in many parts of the Churia Range leads to the degradation of land, forests, habitat, and biodiversity. Uncontrolled collection of NTFPs also leads to pressures from increased hunting and gathering, and igniting of forest fires.
- e. **Swidden agriculture:** The traditional agriculture practice of swidden agriculture has intensified to the point of becoming a critical issue in the Churia Range. Unsustainable use of the practice of clearing forests and increasing land productivity now often leads to an exploited use for temporary pastures for livestock, uncontrollable forest fires, and large areas of forest burned for a small area of land on the slopes, posing an extreme challenge for fighting forest fires. While the technique is not a direct threat, the unsustainable and intensified use of it has become one in recent years.
- f. **Over-grazing in forests:** The people of the Churia depend upon livestock for their livelihoods. However, there is a tendency among people in the Churia to allow their cattle and goats to graze freely in forest areas. This un-managed grazing in the forests has adverse impacts on natural regeneration and the enhancement of forest cover.
- g. **Landslides:** The Churia is composed of sedimentary limestone and clay conglomerate deposits, making the region geologically brittle and fragile, and highly susceptible to erosion. The Churia is not only structurally weak but also lies in the high volume precipitation zone of the country.²¹ The removal of canopy and ground cover exposes the soil to drying, causing it to become loose and vulnerable to erosion. The high rates of erosion lead to localized landslides, which adversely impact livelihoods, habitat, and ecosystem services. The landslides also lead to floods that damage agricultural land in the downstream communities of the Terai.

²¹ Churia Conservation Strategy (draft) -2012, MoFSC in prep

1.4. Drivers, Root Causes, and Barriers (Overall context)

Forest loss is considered a major cause of land degradation in the Churia Range.²² The drivers of deforestation and land degradation in the Churia Range result from a combination of economic, political, and social factors (see Appendix 4: Conceptual Model). The population consists of poverty-stricken people living locally in the Churia Range, as well as people from the mid-hills and the over-populated Terai region who are marginalized into this fragile area because of competition for limited land.²³ The people living in and moving to the Churia Range clear the forest and ground cover, and engage in unsuitable and unsustainable agricultural practices. These practices include cultivating slopes greater than 40 degrees without proper terracing for soil and water retention, shifting cultivation on steep and fragile slopes, and clearing and planting short-term crops in riparian areas. In addition, livestock are allowed to free-graze and remove ground cover, and forests are burned to create temporary pasture. When these exposed, eroding slopes lose nutrients and top soil, farmers abandon them and clear new land, contributing to feedback loops that intensify deforestation and land degradation.^{24,25}

Several land reform commissions were formed to place a ceiling on land ownership to ensure equitable land redistribution, as well as increase agricultural productivity and employment. However, the policies were not successfully enforced and many people (especially new migrants) were compelled to move and occupy marginal land in the Churia Range hills. During the monsoon season, sheet and gully erosion removes the loosened top soils, causing landslides and flashfloods,²⁶ which have now become the leading natural disasters that cause the most economic losses and human deaths.^{27,28} Floods have become more frequent and intense, displacing people and agricultural fields.^{29,30}

The desire among the people of the Churia Range to pursue economic growth, employment, and food, water and energy security puts pressure on natural resources. In addition, there is a lack of knowledge, awareness and skills concerning conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable land use management. Many of the local communities still depend on forest products for their livelihoods, which results in the extraction of timber and non-timber forest products. The Churia Range forests represent a ‘safety net’ for these people to obtain resources, especially during periods of natural disasters that result in crop failures. If Churia Range forests

²² NAP, GoN 2004

²³ The lowlands to the south of the Churia, known as the Terai represents <25% of Nepal’s land area, but supports >55% of the population

²⁴ Nepal Stocktaking report: Land degradation. National capacity self-assessment for global environment management. 2008. Ministry of Environment, Science, and Technology. Government of Nepal.

²⁵ Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. 2010. Nepal’s readiness preparation proposal 2010-2013

²⁶ Ghimire, S.K., D. Higaki, T. P. Bhattarai. 2006. Gully erosion in the Siwalik Hills, Nepal: estimation of sediment production from active ephemeral gullies. *Earth Surface Processes and land Reforms*. 31:155-165

²⁷ Water Resources of Nepal in the Context of Climate Change. Water and Energy Commission Secretariat. Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal. Publ 2011

²⁸ Water Resources of Nepal in the Context of Climate Change. Water and Energy Commission Secretariat. Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal. Publ 2011.

²⁹ http://aanedm.tripod.com/publication/narayani_report.pdf

³⁰ Karkee, K. 2004.

and resources continue to degrade, this safety net will be compromised, increasing the vulnerability of poor and marginalized people.

The Government of Nepal's Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM) launched the National Land Use Policy 2012, which aims to maintain at least 40% of the total land area of Nepal under forest cover. The National Land Use Policy 2012 also recognizes the importance of the ecosystem services provided by the Churia Range, and considers sustainable land management to be a priority. However, allocating lands, and governing and regulating their use, is difficult because of unclear and often conflicting policies and complex tenure issues. As a result, there is a 'tragedy of the commons' situation in the Churia Range in which responsibility, accountability, and long-term sustainability are absent. The Government of Nepal also has a Churia Area Program Strategy which has not been very effective in its implementation. The barriers to effective implementation of policies lie in the lack of coordination among different line agencies, as well as inadequate land-use planning at the local level because of lack of proper capacity within the institutions. Establishing effective policy implementation to mitigate land degradation in the Churia Range will require addressing socio-economic factors such as: rural poverty; better and more efficient use of fragile land for forestry, grazing, and agriculture; and better land use planning for conservation of forests and water sources. Experience has shown that in Nepal, land improvement programs such as community forestry, leasehold forestry, and buffer zone management programs are effective if carried out with active participation of the concerned communities.³¹

Furthermore, climate change has recently emerged as another threat that could exacerbate and accelerate degradation in the Himalayas, including the Churia Range.^{32,33} Projections suggest more precipitation in erratic, unpredictable bouts, with more intense floods. Extreme events have become more frequent and intense in recent years, supporting these projections. A recent assessment of the impacts of climate change related trajectories on the forests of the Churia Range indicates that the lowland and hill forests are highly vulnerable to change, though some biodiversity-rich forests appear resilient.³⁴ Therefore, steps can be taken to reduce climate vulnerability through conservation of resilient forested areas and related resources.

1.5. Stakeholder Analysis

This project engaged the relevant stakeholders and partners throughout the planning phase at the local level and central level. This included forming a technical team from WWF Nepal and partner ministries that held frequent deliberations internally, as well as with line ministries, district line agencies, and community groups. In addition, community consultations were

³¹ *ibid*

³² Shrestha, U. B., S., Gautam, and K.S. Bawa. 2012. Widespread climate change in the Himalayas and associated changes in local ecosystems. *PloS one* 7, e36741 (2012).

³³ Xu, J. *et al.* 2009. The melting Himalayas: cascading effects of climate change on water, biodiversity, and livelihoods. *Conservation Biology*. 23:520–30.

³⁴ Thapa, G., E. Wikramanayake, and J. Forrest. 2013. Climate-change Impacts on the Biodiversity of the Terai Arc Landscape and the Chitwan-Annapurna Linkage. Unpubl WWF Nepal Report.

performed to engage a diverse group of local stakeholders, and to assess potential high-risk project sites. The results from stakeholder engagements, and the community consultation report, can be found in Appendix 19 and 20, respectively.

Key stakeholders in the Churia Range include civil society groups and community-based organizations that derive livelihood, economic, and ecological service-related benefits from the Churia Range. This includes the farmers, pastoralists, and the community/collaborative/leasehold forest user groups (CFUGs), protected area buffer zone user committees (BZUCs), Buffer Zone Management Committees (BZMCs), and water user groups. These groups sustain direct benefits from improved agro-ecosystem service delivery and access to forest resources.

At the decentralized level, stakeholders also include the District Development Committees (DDCs) and Village Development Committees (VDCs). These groups are responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing various development activities in the districts and villages. The District Forest Coordination Committees (DFCCs), which are multi-stakeholder groups established to coordinate forest sector planning, implementation, and monitoring, are also key stakeholders. Another important civil society stakeholder group is the Federation of Community Forest Users of Nepal (FECOFUN), a formal network of CFUGs with a role in policy-making processes that coordinate and mobilize the CFUGs to carry out the activities.

Key government institutions and stakeholders at the district level are under the MoSTE, MoAD, and MoFSC. MoSTE is responsible for managing watersheds to reduce natural hazards, MoAD is responsible for agriculture and livestock development and providing veterinary extension services, and MoFSC is responsible for managing forest resources and granting management rights to local community groups. The protected area offices under the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) are responsible for protected areas and buffer zone management, and will work with BZUCs.

1.6. Sectoral and National Policies

Nepal participated in the preparatory processes of the UNCCD, and became a Party to the convention on 13 January 1997, with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment (MoSTE) as the focal point. As required under the convention, Nepal prepared a National Action Programme (NAP) through a series of consultative processes with the concerned stakeholders in the context of the UNCCD. The NAP exhibits Nepal's commitment to combat land degradation and desertification, and promote natural resource management. Other obligations of the government to the UNCCD are to align national reporting in accordance with the provisions of the convention's 10-year strategy.

The NAP includes seven areas for intervention, namely: forests, soil and water conservation, pastures, mountains, food security and poverty alleviation, early warning systems against climate change induced natural disasters, and cross-sectoral programs. The NAP also has nine supportive programs, which include: policy development, legal instruments, institutional strengthening,

studies and research, indigenous knowledge and practices, data and information sharing, technology development and transfer, education, public awareness and media campaign, and capacity building.³⁵ Priority is being given to the Churia Range, and emphasizes the need for an integrated ecosystem management program that includes rehabilitation of areas prone to landslides, implementation of integrated watershed management activities, water management and food security, disaster forecasting and relief system, and establishing a Desertification Cell in the Ministry.

Additionally, the Government of Nepal endorsed and implemented the first National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in 1988, during the Seventh National Plan (1985-1990). The main goal of the NCS is the rational use, protection, preservation, and restoration of renewable resources to meet the basic needs of the people by the year 2000 through conservation, development, and effective use of existing institutions and structures. The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) has also prepared the National Biodiversity Strategy (2002) that highlights the close ties between the economic well-being of Nepal and sustainable natural resource management. The strategy also emphasizes that the Terai and Siwalik/Churia represent ecosystems of international importance in terms of the number and diversity of globally threatened flora and fauna found in these regions.

As a party to the UNFCCC, the Government of Nepal's MoSTE prepared a National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), 2010. The NAPA presented nine project profiles of national adaptation priorities that are applicable across the country. Moreover, it underscores promotion and upscaling of multi-use systems in integrated management of agriculture, water, forest and biodiversity for the benefit of poor and vulnerable communities in the Churia Range, while maintaining forested biological corridors for endangered wildlife and ecosystem services. A National Framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA) was prepared in 2011 to implement NAPA priorities. The framework contains LAPA principles, preparation steps and tools to guide implementation of adaptation options into sectoral and development plans. It ensures the process of integrating climate adaptation and resilience into local and national planning in a bottom-up, inclusive, responsive and flexible way. It facilitates the formulation of the LAPA in local bodies such as village development committees (VDCs), and municipality and district development committees (DDCs).

Furthermore, MoFSC has updated the Churia Conservation Strategy (2012) to include emerging climate change related challenges. The strategy recommends streamlining sectoral efforts to address issues through better integration and coordination of activities and programs, and balancing the needs of the people with environmental safeguards. The document lays out the strategic framework with goals, objectives and strategies, and an implementation plan for Churia conservation. The document emphasizes the need for: improved legal instruments; conserving the soil and forests through integrated soil and watershed management; conserving and managing

³⁵ MOPE. 2002. Nepal: National Action Programme on Land Degradation and Desertification in the Context of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Ministry of Population and Environment, Kathmandu, Nepal

species, habitats, biological corridors, and ecosystems; and improving the livelihoods of poor and marginalized groups.

Also under the MoFSC's leadership, the Government of Nepal passed the 1993 Forest Act and Forest Regulation 1995, and the Forestry Sector Policy of 2000. These provisions addressed management of community forests, protective forests, leasehold forests, religious forests and other categories of forests in Nepal. Perhaps the most important aspect was creation of community user groups to provide long-term management and use of national forest areas. Known as community forest user groups (CFUGs), they are self-governing autonomous corporate bodies for managing and using community forests. There are now over 14,000 CFUGs in Nepal, with about a quarter of Nepal's national forest managed by more than 35 per cent of the total population. Community forestry is now the second-largest forest management regime after government-managed forests. Forest user groups develop their own operational plans, set harvesting rules, set rates and prices for products, and determine how surplus income is distributed or spent.

The MoFSC adopted the Forestry Sector Policy 2000 as an update to the Master Plan, with particular focus on the Churia and Terai regions. This policy provided explicit management options for the forests in the Churia Range and Terai, and recognized the Agricultural Prospective Plan. In addition, the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM) enacted a National Land Use Policy 2012 to address rapid land degradation across the country. The National Land Use Policy aims to classify and manage land for optimum long term use. In part, the policy is aimed to discourage people from leaving land uncultivated and from using fertile land for non-agricultural purposes. The policy seeks to identify and protect environmentally sensitive land, and discourage people from residing in areas prone to natural disasters.

In addition to the National Land Use Policy, the importance of the Churia Range was specifically acknowledged by the Government of Nepal with the formulation of the President's Churia Conservation Programme in 2011. This program aims to stop further degradation of the environment in the Churia Range and ensure development of local communities. The Programme will be implemented in 26 districts of the 33 Churia Range districts by the MoFSC. The Programme will address four sectors: sustainable development, conservation, livelihoods, and ecosystem maintenance.

The Terai Arc Landscape Strategic Plan, Nepal (2004-2014) also identified the importance of watershed conservation in the Churia Range, and recognizes several drivers of land degradation, with possible mitigating strategies. The primary strategy for forest restoration has been through community-based programs such as community, collaborative, and leasehold forestry, which provides the local communities with usufruct and management rights.

The National Agriculture Policy 2004 was promulgated by the Ministry of Agriculture Development, and underscores sustainable agriculture development through an increase in productivity, commercial farming and wise use of natural resources. The Government of Nepal is

currently developing an Agriculture Development Strategy which would increase land productivity from \$1,600 per hectare to \$5,000 per hectare in the next 20 years, while sustaining at least 5% growth in the agricultural sector during this period.

1.7. Baseline Analysis and Gaps

Land degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources have been recognized by the Government of Nepal to be serious threats to the ecosystem health of the Churia Range as well as the livelihoods of the local communities that rely on a sustained flow of ecosystem goods and services. A number of government-led initiatives have been established recently to address these problems, including the National Land Use Policy and the President Churia Conservation Programme.

In early 2012, the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM) enacted a National Land Use Policy 2012 to address this rapid land degradation across the country. The National Land Use Policy seeks to classify and manage land for optimum long term use. However, the policy has been difficult to enforce because of unclear and often conflicting policies and complex tenure issues in more populated regions like the Churia Range. As a result, there is a 'tragedy of the commons' situation in the Churia Range in which responsibility, accountability, and long-term sustainability are absent. In addition to the National Land Use Policy, the President Churia Conservation Programme 2011 is being implemented in 26 districts of the 33 Churia Range districts by the MoFSC, addressing four sectors: sustainable development, conservation, livelihoods, and ecosystem maintenance. Both the National Land Use Policy and the President Churia Conservation Programme prioritize sustainable natural resource management, but are without the necessary financial and institutional capacity to support or achieve successful implementation.

Additionally, two donor-led initiatives are also addressing environmental conservation issues in the Churia Range: the Terai Arc Landscape Program and Hariyo Ban. The Terai Arc Landscape Program, which is being implemented in the western Churia Range districts, aims to conserve the biodiversity, forests, soils and watersheds of the Terai and Churia Range to ensure the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural integrity of the region. The TAL was initiated in 2001 and is being jointly implemented by the Department of Forests (DoF), Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC), and WWF Nepal, in collaboration with local communities and NGOs.

The Hariyo Ban Program complements activities in the Terai Arc Landscape by restoring and conserving forests, as well as helping to build resilience to climate change in communities and ecosystems. The five year program funded by USAID works on biodiversity conservation, payments for ecosystem services (including REDD+) and climate change adaptation. The project is carried out in close collaboration with the Government of Nepal, and is implemented by four conservation organizations including World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Federation of

Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN), the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC).

While these baseline activities are addressing land degradation in Nepal, there are two critical issues that prevent further success. The first baseline problem is the spatial disconnect resulting from the lack of interventions to address degradation in the four districts of the proposed project. Currently, there are donor-funded programs addressing biodiversity and landscape conservation in the western Churia Range. However, these programs neglect to address the severely degraded forests and agricultural lands in the central and eastern Churia Range, namely the districts of Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, and Makwanpur. Thus, there is a significant spatial as well as knowledge gap in the central and eastern Churia Range communities, specifically concerning the ability to sustainably manage their natural resources.

The second, and most significant, baseline problem is the lack of capacity and limited manpower and budget for government initiatives that prevent the National Land Use Policy and the President Churia Conservation Programme from having any sustainable success. Both of these government initiatives were enacted within the last two years, and conservation programs such as the Terai Arc Landscape Program and the recent Hariyo Ban Program have limited plans to implement these new government plans.

In order to address the baseline situation, there is a clear need to improve the management capacity as well as sustainable conservation principles of local communities. Effective conservation of the Churia Range should ensure that the entire hill range is secured from degradation. Failure to substantially reduce land degradation in the Churia Range will result in loss of lives and livelihoods of people from flooding and river bank cutting and erosion, loss of endangered biodiversity, and loss of revenue to the national economy due to a decline in tourism in this area. For these reasons, a holistic approach is critical to prevent land degradation and to restore degraded lands.

1.8. Opportunities & Linkages (GEF & non-GEF interventions)

The project will also collaborate and coordinate with the following ongoing initiatives:

- The Project for Agriculture Commercialization and Trade (PACT) implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC). This project, supported by the World Bank, is implemented across 25 districts, including the four Churia districts under the GEF project. The project will coordinate with MoAC to improve agriculture, rural business development and cooperatives.
- The Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP) implemented by the Department of Forests. This program focuses on rehabilitation of degraded forests, environmental conservation and poverty reduction through the participation of local people. The GEF

project proposal incorporates the strategies of the LFLP to build stewardship of the local people and thereby reduce pressures in the Churia Range.

- The Irrigation and Water Resource Management Project (IWRMP) supported by the World Bank focuses food security by improving agricultural productivity through integrated crop and water management. The GEF project builds upon the lessons learned from IWRMP as implemented in the districts in the western region.
- The Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Programme implemented by the Nepal Red Cross Society focuses on preparing the communities to face potential disasters and to empower them in planning, managing and eventually coping with small scale disasters on their own. It includes the capacity building of communities in tackling climate change induced disasters such as floods. The proposed project will coordinate with CBDP in building resilience to disasters among the vulnerable communities residing in the Churia.
- The tiger and rhinoceros conservation projects (WWF, Global Tiger Initiative, and NTNC). The ecological services from the Churia are essential in supporting these endangered species, and the Churia Range forests also serve as important forest corridors for tigers and elephants.
- The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program is being implemented under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and WWF Nepal in partnership with local communities. WWF is currently implementing two projects, including the Protected Area and Buffer Zone (PABZ) project and Corridors and Bottlenecks Restoration Project (CBRP). The projects are being implemented in the proposed districts for the GEF project, where lessons learned can be shared and replicated.
- The Hariyo Ban Program is a USAID-funded initiative being implemented in TAL and CHAL. The activities of Hariyo Ban include biodiversity conservation, sustainable landscape management, and climate change adaptation. Some of these activities are being implemented in the focal districts of this GEF project.

The project will develop an implementation modality at the central level that includes representatives from the relevant ministries, Terai Arc Landscape, Hariyo Ban, and President Churia Conservation Programme. Planned activities will be shared through this mechanism for better coordination. The mechanism will also provide a forum to share lessons and experiences, and provide input for the annual plans of this project. Similarly, a district level mechanism (e.g. Project Management Committee) will be set up to implement the activities, and facilitate timely reviews.

SECTION 2: GEF INTERVENTION STRATEGY

2.1. Project Scope and Vision (GEF Project Objective)

The proposed project seeks to substantially reduce land degradation from human activities in the Churia Range, and to reduce vulnerability to climate change through improved and sustainable land and forest management practices. Over the three-year period, this proposed project is designed to mitigate land degradation in four pilot Churia Range districts by making a vital, incremental contribution to ensure that land degradation in the Churia Range is substantially reduced by: 1) promoting sustainable agricultural and livestock management practices; 2) engaging local communities in forest conservation; and 3) creating the enabling conditions for inter-sectoral collaboration for sustainable land use and management.

The conservation of forest lands will be achieved by promoting and instituting community, leasehold, and collaborative forestry in strategic forested areas. These forests will be strategically selected through GIS based analyses for integrated land and watershed management in four pilot Churia Range districts. Forests on sensitive and vulnerable slopes, climate resilient forests, biodiversity rich forests, forest corridors, and riparian areas will be prioritized. In addition, building capacity and knowledge among the farmers, pastoralists, community stewards, and government extension workers will ensure that the project activities will be sustained beyond the project period. During the project, a substantial reduction of land degradation processes is expected in demonstration sites, with measurable improvement in forest and agro-ecosystem services that will be scaled up to the district level through increased capacity of communities and technical ministries.

The technology and techniques introduced as best practices to achieve these targets will become models that can be adopted and implemented by government and donor projects to prevent and reverse land degradation in the Churia Range. The proposed project will also provide important socioeconomic benefits to communities in the Churia Range and in the Terai. Economic and livelihood-related incentives and opportunities for local communities will encourage them to be more responsible stewards of ecosystems within the Churia Range. This will help to ensure the sustainability of natural capital, which is a vital component of their livelihoods and which functions as a safety net in times of environmental and economic stress.

Pilot Project Sites: Proposed project activities will be implemented in four districts within the Churia Range. These districts were identified during the project planning phase. The four pilot Churia Range districts were selected based on:

- a. severely degraded land and forests, poor agricultural practices, and lack of management;
- b. stakeholder willingness to participate in the project; and
- c. spatial gap with other conservation efforts and government programs.

District	Total District Area (ha)	Degraded Forest (ha)	%	Extent of Degraded Land (ha)	%	2011 Population	Population growth 1981-2011 (%)
Rautahat	104,013	2,249	2.16	1,054	1.01	686,722	107
Bara	127,687	5,088	3.98	1,827	1.43	687,708	116
Parsa	141,058	4,626	3.28	1,925	1.36	601,017	111
Makwanpur	168,326	3,542	2.10	2,692	1.60	420,477	73

Table 1. Extent of degraded forest and land in the four proposed districts in the Churia Range.

Based on these criteria, the four pilot districts selected are located in the south central portion of Nepal, and include the districts of Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, and Makwanpur (see Appendix 1: Map and Table 1). The 2010 National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) ranked these four districts under this project from high (Parsa) to moderate (Rautahat, Bara, and Makwanpur) in its climate change vulnerability index. The four pilot districts are also located adjacent to one of Nepal's premier protected areas, Chitwan National Park, which harbors important populations of endangered species. The region has a relatively high density of people, and includes major river systems such as the Narayani and Rapti that are tributaries of the Ganges River. Addressing degradation of land and forests in the Churia Range will not only improve ecosystem health in Nepal's Churia Range, but will also have positive effects on communities and livelihoods downstream. The proposed project districts are highly representative of the Churia Range – both in terms of degradation of natural resources and socio-economic conditions. Additional information about the project districts is detailed below.

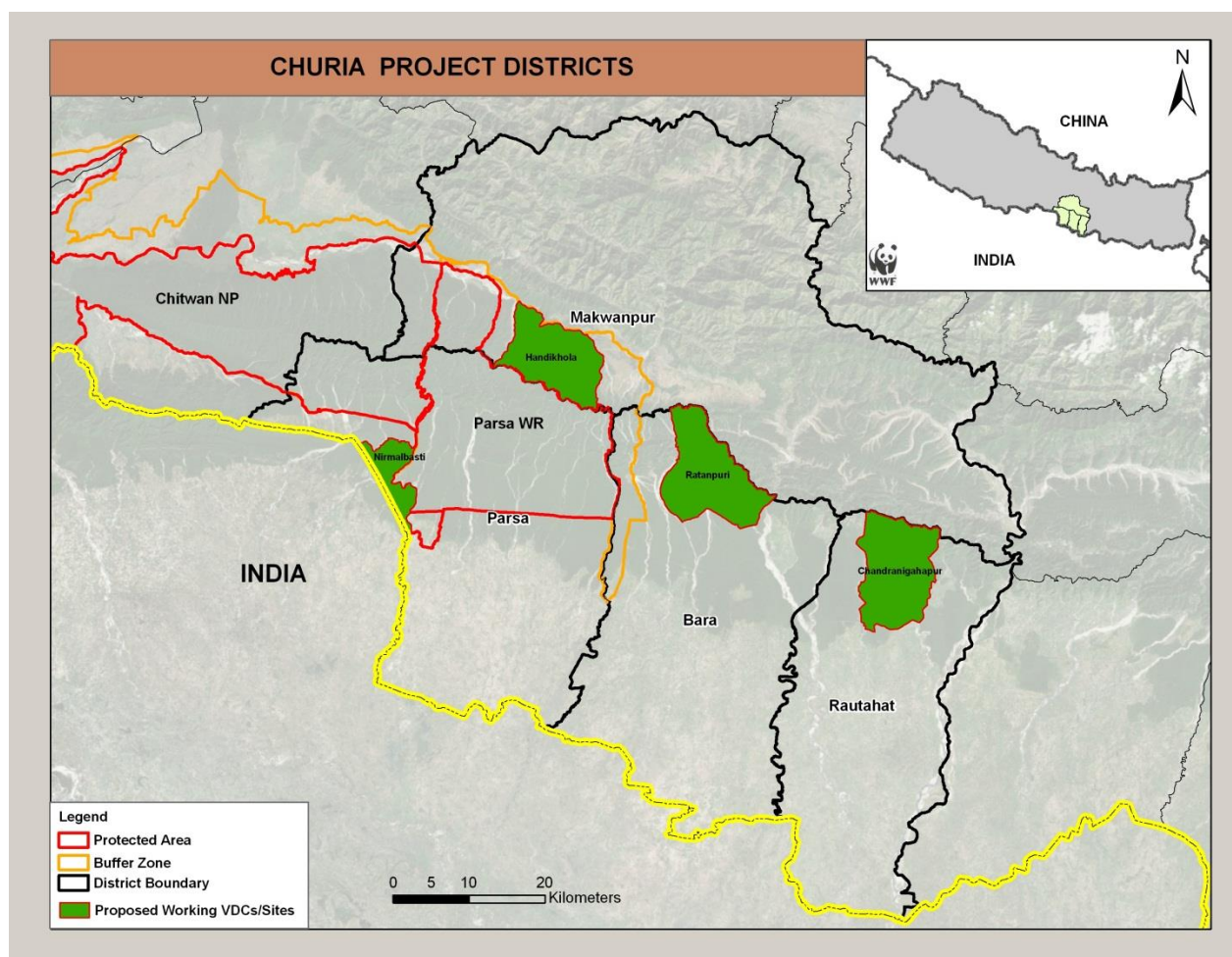


Figure 1: Location of four pilot Churia Range districts identified by the project.

Rautahat District: The district of Rautahat is located along the southern border of Nepal. Rautahat has a total area of approximately 104,013 ha, a population of approximately 686,722, and a population density of 6.6 persons per ha. Out of the four proposed project districts, Rautahat has the highest population density. Rautahat used to have high soil productivity but has experienced significant degradation as a result of increased population encroachment into the Churia Range. In some instances, encroaching populations are occupying 4 – 15 katta (120 – 450 ha), but only producing maize on a small portion, letting livestock roam freely in adjacent forests.

During local level consultations (see Appendix 19 and 20), it was observed that local populations are willing to move out of the Churia Range if given better employment opportunities closer to market centers. These communities are currently residing in the Churia Range due to lack of livelihood opportunities. The lack of clear government policies and enforcement is the major barrier preventing better natural resource management in the Churia Range districts, such as Rautahat.

Of the 96 VDCs in Rautahat, 10 VDCs touch the Churia Range forest areas. Within these forests, there is subsistence agriculture, and unsustainable timber and fuelwood extraction. Compounding

the erosion and siltation of local waters is the massive extraction of sand and boulders for construction material, with crusher industries active in the Bagmati area, only 600 m from Churia Range forests.

There is a general concern among people in the Churia Range that they do not officially hold the land and that the government can evict them at any time. This has resulted in a mindset where communities are not concerned with future natural resource management, extracting freely in order to address immediate livelihood concerns. While local consultations suggested that land certification schemes should be avoided because of the fluid situation of the national government, short-term leases of 5 – 15 years may be an alternative to promote horticulture and production forest. Some assurance or guarantee could be generated within them and bring them into the conservation and livelihood programs.

There are also conflicting viewpoints among the people living in Terai and in Churia Range. People living in lowland Terai advocate not to issue land certificates to the Churia. There have been instances where resettled people have been forced to return to the Churia Range because they could not get enough land in the lower lying Terai. Similarly, there is the migration from the southern area of Makawanpur into the Churia Range.

Bara District: The district of Bara is located along the southern border of Nepal. Bara has a total area of approximately 127,687 ha, a population of approximately 687,708, and a population density of 5.3 persons per ha. Over the last forty years, Bara has seen the largest increase in population compared to the other project districts at 116%.

Haphazard settlements in the Churia Range are common in Bara. Because these communities are transient in nature, they are practicing intensified and unsustainable use of traditional agriculture practices in the slope lands, resulting in severe land degradation and deforestation. People are not paying heed to the suggestions for sustainable agricultural practices.

Livestock plays a central role in the Churia Range. Marginal farmers in Ratanpur areas have begun to use stall feeding due to lack of open space for fodder grass due to encroachment. Stall feeding is also difficult in many areas of Bara because communities opt not to plant fodder in their cultivable land in lieu of staple crops. While open grazing is prevalent in many parts of Bara, such as Amlekhgunj, it presents its own grave land degradation issues in the fragile Churia Range. Such issues are exacerbated by lack of budget resources for implementation of government programs. For example, even though the first land reforms were implemented over 50 years ago, tenure rights in districts like Bara have not yet been received.

Consultations with local communities (see Appendix 19 and 20) have resulted in a number of solutions. It is clear that current policies should clearly demarcate the forest area and degraded lands in the Churia Range. There is also a need to communicate and train encroaching

communities so they can be brought into committees and later trained in alternative livelihoods and income generation activities.

There is a demonstrated need for improved breeds of livestock, especially in light of new markets for products such as dairy. By developing model sites in Bara, community members in Sati Saal, Khair, and Sisoo believe that encroachment issues can be addressed and return the lands to sustainable production. These demonstration plots for agriculture activities should be developed to include organic farming and similar innovative practices such as conservation pond and rain water harvesting, flood control, wetland improvement and biodiversity conservation.

Parsa District: The district of Parsa is located along the southern border of Nepal. Parsa has a total area of approximately 141,058 ha, a population of approximately 601,017, and a population density of 4.2 persons per ha.

Consultations in Parsa show that local communities wish to be empowered through new and existing national and district policies that are properly monitored by the government (see Appendix 19: Stakeholder Consultations). The communities should be given the technical inputs in agriculture with demonstration sites. For example, bamboo, broom grass, turmeric, ginger and yam cultivation promoted and inclusion in local markets linkage should be supported. There is also a strong sense that there should be a gradual transformation to better management of agricultural practices. For example, improved livestock management could be promoted for milk production in lieu of current practices of rearing large herds of unproductive cattle. Within the Churia Range, the Chepang communities dwell within the forests. Past efforts have financially supported them to buy seeds and cultivate ginger, which has now merged into vegetable farming of tomato and cauliflower. Because of this demonstration, now the Chepang communities are advocating better forest protection.

Makwanpur District: The district of Makwanpur is located above and adjacent to the other three project districts of Rautahat, Bara, and Parsa. Makwanpur has a total area of approximately 168,326 ha, a population of approximately 420,477, and a population density of 2.5 persons per ha. Over the last forty years, Makwanpur has seen the largest increase in population compared to the other project districts at 73%. However, consultations in Makwanpur showed that this population increase has translated into encroachment within the Churia Hills, especially the Dhihal, Chatiban, and Phaparbari VDCs.

While the President's Churia Program is being implemented within Makwanpur to address land degradation, the program is significantly underfunded. Furthermore, there is a common acceptance that communities are not interested in watershed management activities, instead opting for immediate natural resource exploitation. Consultations with local technical ministerial staff show that land degradation can be decreased by up to 60% in the Churia Range. They

suggest continuing financial and technical support for CFUGS and leasehold forestry for people falling below the poverty line. There is also a need to promote stall feeding, a gradual reduction in unproductive cattle, and promote agriculture technologies with interventions such as SALT, zero tillage and community cultivation and cooperatives.

2.2. Project Rationale and Conservation targets (including GEF Global Environmental Benefits)

Project Rationale and Conservation Targets: The proposed project will make a vital, incremental contribution to current on the ground activities and policy trends to ensure that land degradation within the Churia Range is substantially reduced, enabling the landscape to recover. The conservation targets have been identified as the Churia Sal and mixed forest areas within the four pilot districts of the Churia Range. These forested areas are habitats that directly affect the health of the overall region and provide critical ecosystem services and valuable resources to communities. Agricultural and rangeland (pastoral) productive services as well as socio-cultural (human well-being) targets have also been identified and incorporated into the project design (See Appendix 4: Conceptual Model). Human activities and climate change have direct and indirect impacts on forest health, in turn affecting the reliability of vital resources necessary for local species and communities. Strategies were developed to address those direct and indirect threats with a focus on maintaining or improving the condition of the forested areas, agro-pastoral lands, and land use policies.

Target indicators will be assigned ratings of poor, fair, good, or very good during the project inception phase using baseline measurements and analysis. Desired future ratings and incremental target measurements will be defined in collaboration with partners and ministerial officials. Additional information and rationale regarding project targets and indicators are available in the project Monitoring Plan (see Section 5) and the Monitoring & Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 13).

Global Environmental Benefits: This project will provide important environmental benefits to the Churia Range and communities, but the outcomes and lessons learnt will extend to communities in the Terai, across Nepal, and the globe. The project outcomes will include improved agro-economic and forest ecosystem goods and services, reduction of pollution and siltation of international waters, and a reduced vulnerability of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems to climate change and other human-induced impacts. The project will also improve economic and livelihood-related inducements to local communities to become better stewards of the Churia ecosystems to ensure sustainability of natural resources that are the source of their livelihoods and also their ‘safety net’ in times of environmental and economic stress.

The region harbors several protected areas with iconic species, including Bengal tigers and Asian elephants. These species are important tourism draws from around the globe, and contribute significantly to the local and national economy. The Churia Range represents the source of ecosystem services that sustain both the species and the tourism industry. A global

environmental benefit of this project will thus be the improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of the tourism industry on the wider Churia Range landscape.

Addressing land degradation in the Churia will have wider, regional implications as sustained water flows from the Himalayas also serve the people in the Terai and the hundreds of millions of people downstream in the Ganges River basin. The rivers that flow from and through the Churia Range in Nepal contribute an estimated 70% of the dry season and 40% of the annual flows of the Ganges River.³⁶ Good land management practices in the Churia are therefore necessary to sustain water flows, prevent sedimentation, floods, and river cutting downriver, and to prevent salt water intrusion into the highly productive Ganges delta region. The lessons learned and successful models from this project also have the potential for replication internationally, in mountainous areas that are undergoing land degradation.

The project will also work to develop the capacity of the local communities in sustainable land and water management. This enhanced capacity development will have a special focus on women, poor and socially marginalized groups. Each of the project objectives will prioritize gender and social inclusion as an integral component of the overall initiative to ensure that both women and men receive equitable social and economic benefits, do not suffer adverse effects during the development process, and enjoy respect for their dignity and human rights. Additional information regarding gender mainstreaming and social safeguards is described below and in Appendix 12.

Specifically, the project also aims achieve the following tangible global environmental benefits. First, 7,500 hectares of vegetative cover will be placed under proper sustainable land management with the aim of upscaling in the four Churia Range districts. Second, approximately 3.6 tons/ hectares of CO₂ emissions will be avoided in 5,000 hectares of targeted project sites for improved forest management, yielding approximately 18,000 tons of avoided CO₂ emissions annually, totaling 54,171 tons over the three-year project duration. The presentation of global environmental benefits associated with the project can also be viewed in the Land Degradation Focal Area Portfolio Monitoring and Tracking Tool (PMAT) (Appendix 18).

Economic Analysis:

This Medium Size Project's is requesting US\$ 1 million from the GEF Trust Fund. The project's intended duration is three years and has focused interventions in four districts within Nepal's Churia Range. Given this limited size and scope, and focused on-the-ground interventions, a full economic analysis was not considered necessary during the project design.

Financial Analysis:

The project area in the Churia foothills is part of a large, 2.2 million hectare landscape called the Terai Arc. The Churia hills form a northern boundary and important source of water flowing south into the lower levels of the Terai. In 2005, WWF completed a comprehensive 10-year

³⁶ <http://www.wepa-db.net/policies/state/nepal/state.htm> accessed 2 March 2013

financial assessment of the full Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) that includes the Churia foot hills and the project area and specific activities that fall under this proposal. This comprehensive financing assessment is based on a very detailed conservation plan for the TAL that is sanctioned by the Nepal government and includes 5 key strategies and over 60 specific areas of activity arrayed under these strategies. The total cost of all TAL conservation including the Churia foothills from the assessment is \$25.68 million for 10 years (at an average of \$2.5 million per year). The funding required for this project will be used to fund important activities in the project areas to replant and protect forests and to protect and conserve water in the Churia hills. All of these activities, and their associated costs, are part of the TAL strategic plan and represented in the full TAL comprehensive financial assessment.

2.3. Direct and Indirect Threats (Reference to Rankings Table in Appendix 2)

Direct threats identified as affecting the local biodiversity, communities, and contributing to land degradation in the Churia are the following: unsustainable extraction of timber products; encroachment into the fragile forested slopes; decreased soil condition (nutrients) and fertility; unsustainable extraction of non-timber forest products (NTFPs); some intensified and unsustainable use of traditional agriculture practices; over-grazing by livestock on forested slopes; and landslides.

The threats listed above arise from human activities that increase the harvest and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products from forested areas, unsustainable agricultural and livestock practices of local farming communities, insufficient inter-sectoral coordination of land use policies, and high precipitation events that are increasing in frequency and intensity as a result of global climate change. A threats analysis was completed to assess the scope, severity and irreversibility of each direct threat and to rank them in their order of priority (see Appendix 2: Threats Ranking).

2.4. Project Strategies (GEF Project Components) and Expected Results

The project objective is to substantially reduce land degradation in at least 2,500 ha of agro-pastoral lands and 5,000 ha of Churia sal and mixed forest areas in strategic project locations throughout the four pilot Churia Range districts by 2017. The project seeks to promote improved agricultural and livestock management practices, community forest management, and inter-sectoral land use planning and policies that promote healthier ecological flows and services. This project will achieve this by: a) engaging multiple stakeholders and partners (from local community stewards to multi-sectoral government staff) to introduce sustainable, coordinated, forest and agro-pastoral land management in the four pilot Churia Range districts; b) supporting the development of enabling policies and inter-sectoral coordination for efficient land use and land allocation; and c) building local capacity for sustained project implementation, replication, and up-scaling. The project has been organized into four Project Components:

- Component 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services
- Component 2: Integrated landscape management in forested areas
- Component 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement
- Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation

Additional information regarding the expected outcomes and outputs under these objectives is summarized in the project logical framework matrix (see Appendix 5: Logical Framework Matrix).

Project Component 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services

(GEF: \$347,869; Cofinancing: \$1,694,847)

Environmentally damaging agro-pastoral practices on the unstable Churia slopes are causing widespread erosion and land degradation. Poverty-stricken and marginalized people clear forests on steep slopes and along riparian areas for cultivation opportunistically, with no regard for long-term sustainability. Small, scattered cultivation areas that are inefficient to farm and are less productive contribute to the spread of land degradation. In addition, livestock are allowed to free-graze in forests on steep slopes, contributing to the removal of ground cover and loosening of soil. Consequently, soil erosion and landslides are common, and land degradation is intensifying and spreading.

Component 1 will address these threats and support agro-ecosystem flows by maintaining or improving forested areas and hillside conditions through sustainable agricultural and livestock management practices in project areas within the four pilot Churia Range districts. The expected results will be to substantially reduce land degradation processes in the four Churia Range districts through pilot interventions in at least 2,500 ha of degraded land that currently supports agro-pastoral activities. This will be achieved through two expected outcomes with ten expected outputs:

Outcome 1.1 – Improved agricultural management through innovative pilot practices introduced at the field level that reduce erosion and climate vulnerability across 1,000 ha.

Output 1.1.1 – Innovative climate-smart, irrigated, terraced agriculture (SALT technology) implemented in at least 200 ha of agricultural land within the 4 Churia districts to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability on steep slopes. [MoAD]

Output 1.1.2 – Mixed-cropping implemented in at least 200 ha of agricultural land within the 4 districts to increase soil fertility and reduce climate vulnerability. [MoAD]

Output 1.1.3 – Water collection and storage, from uphill sources and rainwater, introduced at 20 storage points across at least 200 ha within the 4 districts for controlled

irrigation of terraced agricultural fields on sloping lands to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability. [MoAD]

Output 1.1.4 – Bio-engineering introduced in at least 6 sites across 400 ha in 3 districts to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and restore productivity in heavily degraded areas. [MoFSC]

Outcome 1.2 – Improved land management across 1,500 ha through an enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector.

Output 1.2.1 – Twelve stakeholder consultations held in the four districts to identify and designate grazing pastures in areas less prone to erosion. [MoAD]

Output 1.2.2 – Productive cattle breeds introduced, stall feeding implemented, and native fodder and forage grass promoted in at least 6 sites across 1,500 ha in 3 districts. [MoAD]

Output 1.2.3 – Vulnerability, risk assessment, and hazard mapping conducted in the 4 districts to identify areas susceptible to natural disasters (eg. landslides, floods). [MoLRM]

Output 1.2.4 – Convene at least 20 community training events to encourage consolidated land management to prevent land fragmentation and encourage efficient and productive agricultural practices. [MoLRM]

Output 1.2.5 – At least 15 community grants awarded in the 4 districts to promote priority community programs for improved land management within the agricultural sector. [WWF-Nepal]

Output 1.2.6 – Build capacity within the local communities and government extension services to implement and sustain these practices, monitor the outcomes, and enhance knowledge transfer for decision support. [MoFSC]

Project Component 2: Integrated landscape management in forested areas

(GEF: \$238,486; Cofinancing: \$1,204,303)

Poverty is a major economic factor that drives forest degradation in the Churia Range. Local populations and people marginalized from the Terai to the relatively less productive Churia Range encroach upon and clear forests on unstable slopes, engage in unsustainable extraction of timber and non-timber forest products, and free-graze livestock on steep slopes. Unless this forest degradation is substantially reduced, there will be continued loss of ecosystem functions and degradation of environmental flows and services, with an increase in natural disasters. Thus, there is an urgent need for sustainable forest management and forest resource use, and to provide alternative livelihood opportunities to alleviate poverty among the local people.

Component 2 aims to maintain or improve forest areas, ecosystem flows and services through direct conservation actions and community forest management. The expected results of this component include implementation of forest restoration and conservation in 5,000 ha of forested areas in project sites within the four pilot Churia Range districts using an inter-sectoral bottom-up approach. This will be achieved through one expected outcome with five expected outputs:

Outcome 2.1 – Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities in 5,000 ha of forested areas within the four pilot Churia Range districts.

Output 2.1.1 – Forest areas in strategic locations (steep slopes, large patches, priority sub-watersheds, water sources, high biodiversity areas, wildlife corridors) are identified, conserved, managed, and restored in at least 40 forested sites across 5,000 ha in the 4 project districts. [MoFSC]

Output 2.1.2 – At least 70 alternative energy source units (biogas, solar, or improved cooking stoves) are distributed in the 4 Churia Range districts to reduce demand for firewood. [MoFSC]

Output 2.1.3 – Alternative livelihood opportunities of at least 600 households in the 4 districts are supported with the promotion of alternative livelihoods based on sustainable use of forest-based resources. [MoFSC]

Output 2.1.4 – At least 2 workshops held to disseminate and support local authorities in policy implementation related to community, collaborative and leasehold forestry programs to enhance the engagement of communities in restoration of degraded forest lands. [WWF-Nepal]

Output 2.1.5 – At least 20 community grants awarded in the 4 districts to establish priority community programs for improved land management within the forestry sector. [WWF-Nepal]

Project Component 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement (GEF: \$112,559; Cofinancing: \$1,003,913)

Despite recognition of the important hydrological role of the Churia, there are no clear policies for land-use and land management to help govern and regulate the complex land use and land tenure issues. There is also no inter-sectoral coordination in land allocation for various purposes to different groups. For instance, the Survey Department is known to allocate forests lands—including lands already allocated for community forestry—to other groups with no consultation with the Forest Department, leading to land conflicts and insecure land tenure.

This component is designed to rectify relevant policy gaps and enable inter-sectoral coordination needed to provide secure land tenure and planned land use and land allocation, and pursue its institutionalization and implementation. The expected outcome of this component will be to

enable cross-sectoral coordination and community engagement to avoid competing land uses and negative trade-offs for sustainable land management within the four pilot Churia Range districts.

Outcome 3.1 – Enhanced cross-sectoral enabling environment for integrated landscape management and participatory decision-making.

Output 3.1.1 - Selection criteria is developed in a participatory manner to determine final project sites, recipients of training, criterion for issuing grants, and recipients of project benefits such as biogas. [WWF-Nepal]

Output 3.1.2 – Capacity is built in 9 institutions and mechanisms and fora are instituted among local governments and diverse local community groups for inclusive, coordinated, inter-sectoral land and resource use plans. [MoLRM]

Output 3.1.3 – At least 30 CBO representatives are capacitated through integrated landscape management job training and internships to enhance the enabling environment for land conservation in the Churia Range. [MoLRM]

Output 3.1.4 – District-level land use planning and analyses that identify important and sensitive areas for restoration and conservation management are completed and integrated into district land-use plans in the 4 project districts. [MoLRM]

Output 3.1.5 – Localized land-use policies/plans for sustainable land management in the 4 districts developed by the Government of Nepal in consultation with local government and local community groups, and project leadership structures, contact information and formal agency grievance mechanisms are established and shared. [MoLRM]

Output 3.1.6 – Informational, educational, and communication materials on sustainable land management disseminated in at least 24 awareness programs and media interactions in the 4 districts. [WWF-Nepal]

Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation

(GEF: \$136,677; Cofinancing: \$ 185,854)

The project will employ participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) throughout the project life cycle. Following the WWF Project and Program Management Standards (PPMS), the M&E framework will be based on adaptive management principles, ensuring feedback mechanisms at different implementation levels. The M&E framework and plan will build on the established M&E systems of the WWF Eastern Himalayas program, as well as the WWF Terai Arc Landscape Program, and the WWF Hariyo Ban Program.

Project M&E includes interim progress reviews and a formal terminal evaluation, and will be carried out at four levels: 1) community level; 2) project or site level; 3) project/program level or central level; and 4) donor or funding agency level. The participatory M&E conducted at the community level will entail regular monitoring by community members, with support from

program staff. This will mostly be related to input, process and output monitoring. The monitoring at the project or site level will be done by program staff who will be responsible for collecting information from community groups and maintaining a regularly updated database system. Project level monitoring will also include periodic progress reviews and reports (semi-annual performance reviews), field visits, sample surveys, and joint monitoring with partner agencies. Central program monitoring and other technical staff will maintain records and will collect, collate, and analyze information from the field site office. The monitoring system will employ the latest state-of-the-art tools and approaches in participatory M&E, and source documentation will be collected and stored in the project monitoring workspace. Project monitoring will include tracking activity implementation, project schedules, project spending, and project results. The GEF Land Degradation Tracking Tool will be completed using the data and measurements collected each year, and will be submitted according to donor requirements.

Output 4.1.1 – Project monitoring system operating and systematically providing information on progress in meeting project output and outcome targets.

Output 4.1.2 – Baseline assessment, including GIS mapping, completed in a timely manner.

Output 4.1.3 – Interim project progress review executed.

Output 4.1.4 – Development and dissemination of project lessons learned to primary project stakeholders

Output 4.1.5 – Timely submission of GEF LD Tracking Tool.

Output 4.1.6 – Final evaluation carried out and reports disseminated in a timely manner.

The lessons learned and capacity built through this project will help to contribute to the larger vision of a stable and climate-resilient Churia ecosystem under integrated forest and agro-pastoral management through local stewardship. These project strategies are in line with the GEF's strategies of integrated natural resource use and careful land-use planning that reconciles sustainable livelihoods, socio-economic well-being, sustainable and ecologically sensitive land and natural resource management, and biodiversity conservation.

The implementation of project activities will be refined during the project inception workshop that will occur within the first three months of the project. The inception workshop will be hosted by WWF-Nepal and include technical staff from the three participating ministries (MoAD, MoFSC, and MoLRM) as well as proposed community representatives within the project districts. Activity refinement will include identification of specific communities and specific methods/modalities to achieve the agreed upon expected project outcomes.

Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion

Each project objective will prioritize gender and social inclusion as a cross-cutting strategy to ensure equitable social and economic benefits and respect for dignity and human rights. The WWF institutional framework for gender mainstreaming will strengthen participation by women and ensure equal opportunities to lead and or represent in all project activities. All consultations will include both men and women, and gender disaggregation will be incorporated into data collection for relevant project indicators. Gender equality and social inclusion will also be a key parameter when supporting policy development processes of the government and community based organizations.

Recommendations stemming from the project social impact assessment and in-depth community consultations resulted in the integration of specific mitigations into Component 3. Selection criteria will be developed with stakeholders to ensure standardized and equitable distributions of project resources, trainings, and other benefits. The project will strive for diverse participation in work streams that involve local communities to minimize or avoid negative impacts for at-risk groups. Communities will be provided with WWF local and HQ project contact information, as well as information regarding formal grievance mechanisms to further empower the communication and decision-making of local communities.

2.5. Intervention Logic and Key Assumptions (WWF Results Chains)

This project was designed to substantially reduce land degradation in the Churia Range to conserve forests, improve natural resource management and agro-pastoral practices, and preserve wildlife corridors and habitat. The project will work to address specific biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being targets. This will involve pursuing interventions that mitigate the threats that are adversely impacting these targets. The interventions include introducing appropriate agricultural practices and techniques, measures that promote sustainable grazing and agricultural practices, soil stabilization through bio-engineering techniques, and improved land use planning for conservation of forests and agro-ecosystems. These measures will help to improve agriculture and livestock production, and the better rate of return will discourage settlers from illegally harvesting timber or unsustainably extracting NTFPs. This intervention logic relies on the basic assumption that the improved return from agriculture and livestock will discourage the marginal farmers from engaging in ecologically damaging agricultural practices, and will therefore improve the condition of forests and other natural resources.

The vulnerability assessment and hazard mapping will identify areas prone to natural disasters, and will aid in planning specific project intervention sites. The project will pursue programs such as community forestry, collaborative forestry, leasehold forestry, and buffer zone management to address forest degradation through community stewardship. The project will also promote alternative energy technologies and support livelihood opportunities to reduce the pressure on forests and natural resources. The improved management of forest resources will help meet the demand for fuelwood and fodder. It is presumed that alternative energy, coupled with off-farm

and forest based income generating activities, will discourage the farmers from unsustainably extracting forest resources, and will result in improved management of forests.

In addition, the project will foster better inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration between different governmental agencies at the centralized and decentralized (district and village) level. The project will support the formulation of coordinated, inter-sectoral land use plans at the site and district level. The stakeholders will be provided with capacity building trainings and fora to discuss issues related to zoning of land parcels and use of natural resources. This in turn will promote sustainable land use and land management, which is a thematic gap in the baseline projects.^{37, 38} The project strategies (see Section 2.4) are designed to mitigate the direct and indirect threats that contribute to the overall degradation of the Churia Range, and have been articulated in detail in the results chains to illustrate the linkages between planned actions and expected results (see Appendix 3: Results Chain).

WWF designed this project taking into account key assumptions with respect to how project interventions will ultimately impact the direct threats and targets. We have assumed that we will be able to effectively engage and inspire individuals and communities to alter forest resource use and agro-pastoral practices. We have also made the assumption that the adverse impacts of land degradation will not be fully addressed in the four project districts under other programs sponsored by government or civil society organizations.

2.6. Risk Analysis and Risk Management Measures (Project Risks)

The results or outputs rest upon some basic assumptions. First, the local communities have to be receptive to new ideas of scientific land zonation and management, and must buy into new agricultural technologies and sustainable forest management approaches. The necessary policy reforms to make these technologies and methods applicable have to be approved and recognized by the appropriate government mechanisms. People must understand the importance of multi-stakeholder processes that are gender and socially inclusive.

If these assumptions hold true, the theory of change is that conservation of strategic forests and sustainable agro-pastoral land management as an integrated landscape management strategy will help to sustain forest and agro-ecosystem functions and services that benefit people and biodiversity. The current unsustainable, environmentally damaging agricultural and livestock grazing practices will be replaced with adaptive, sustainable practices to substantially reduce land degradation. Forest conservation in strategic areas will sustain ecosystem services, especially by regulating water flows, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sequestering carbon, and will continue to provide important forest products if harvested at sustainable harvest levels.

³⁷ Dinerstein, E., A. Rijal, M. Bookbinder, B. Kattel, and A. Rajuria. 1999. Tigers as neighbours: Efforts to promote local guardianship of endangered species in lowland Nepal. Pages 316-333 in J. Seidensticker, S. Christie, and P. Jackson, editors. *Riding the tiger: Conservation in a human dominated landscape*. Cambridge University Press, United Kingdom.

³⁸ Nagendra, H. 2002. Tenure and forest conditions: Community forestry in the Nepal Terai. *Environmental Conservation* 29:530–539.

Risk Description	Ranking	Mitigation Strategy
Encroachment and clearing of Churia forests continues despite the project.	Medium	Introduce policy and community stewardship-related measures to prevent further encroachment and illegal forest clearing in the Churia.
Climate change increases the unpredictability of weather patterns with greater risk of crop failure and weather induced disasters.	Medium	Establish or negotiate government commitments on the adoption of a Churia conservation strategy that integrates climate change adaptation measures and ensures climate funding.
Infrastructure development without consideration for the environmental impacts on the Churia.	Medium	Adopt strategies for forest conservation in sensitive and vulnerable areas and identify them as 'no-go areas' for infrastructure and development. Promote green infrastructure designs to minimize impacts. Promote sustainable development and create markets for sustainable/green enterprises
Poor cooperation and coordination among the line agencies and other stakeholders for implementation of regulations for land, water, and resource management in the Churia	Medium	Project (and baseline project partners) will support a coordinating and steering mechanism to facilitate coordination. Such a body has been proposed under the National Churia Conservation Strategy, which is under preparation by the GoN. Since it involves many partners/stakeholders, it adopts strategies and then minimizes the inter-agencies/stakeholders inefficiencies.
Current provincial laws and rights concerning landscape level conservation limit effective inter-district coordination.	Medium	The project will contribute to the evaluation of restructuring state legal instruments and provisions. Strategies will also be used to develop a master law for natural resource management, specifically as it pertains to water, land and forest. The strategies will create a win-win situation for all stakeholders.
Lack of land tenure rights among poor, marginalized forest dependent communities set back conservation efforts.	Medium	The project will carry out activities that strengthen community based organizations, namely community forest user groups (CFUGs). The project will also promote local land reform with comprehensive land use planning principles. The project will identify socially excluded or marginalized groups and ensure they receive equitable benefits.

Table 3: Project Risk Matrix

2.7. Consistency with National Priorities or Plans

Controlling land degradation is accorded high priority in the Government of Nepal's plans and policies. The various National Action Plans include action programs that prioritize control and mitigation of land degradation by breaking the cycle of poverty and land degradation, and several initiatives have already been started by the relevant line agencies in MoAD, MoFSC, and MoLRM to implement programs on agriculture, leasehold forestry, private forestry, community forestry, sustainable soil management, integrated plant nutrient management systems (IPNMS), and other forms of sustainable land-use.

However, difficulties in resolving issues related to sustainable and responsible resource utilization make implementation of these programs difficult. Although regulatory measures have been developed and enforced after the re-instatement of democracy in 1990 to focus on people's participation through a 'user group' concept, conflicts in the traditional rights of the users of forests and pastures have arisen. Conflicting policies and policy gaps in the definition of institutional roles and responsibilities constrain and hamper implementation of programs that empower local people with management and stewardship of land and water. Therefore, a review of existing legal provisions is necessary, with actions to amend policies and regulations to support effective and efficient implementation of the national action plans. In particular, a regulatory framework that focuses on sharing benefits from natural resources, and leasing of appropriate land for cash crop production and for carbon trading, is needed. The existing legal regime on non-timber forest products discourages entrepreneurs from developing plantations on private land. Tax and revenue generation instruments should also be revised so that barren private land could be afforested or reforested.

Governmental and non-governmental agencies in Nepal are currently working to rehabilitate degraded lands in Nepal. The key ministries in this process are MoLRM, MoAD, MoFSC, and MoSTE. But a clear policy that can enable these multiple agencies to implement their strategies and programs in a coordinated, efficient manner is still lacking. A scientific land use planning policy has never been formulated, making unsustainable land use difficult to control, coordinate, and correct. Thus, a mechanism or institution is necessary to coordinate the activities of the various organizations in government, private and non-governmental sectors for efficient and effective implementation of activities and interventions for sustainable land and natural resource management according to a land-use plan.

The following national priorities and plans are particularly relevant to this GEF project:

- As party to the UNCCD, Nepal has prepared a National Action Programme for Land Degradation and Desertification (2002)³⁹. A subsequent stocktaking and national capacity assessment report on land degradation was prepared by MoSTE in 2008. These reports provide the analyses of threats, drivers, activities and targets to combat land degradation in the country. Nepal's State of the Environment report (2001) also prioritizes integrated ecosystem management programs to rehabilitate areas prone to landslides, implement integrated watershed management activities for water management, food security, and disaster forecasting and relief in the Churia range.
- The MoFSC has updated the Churia Conservation Strategy (2012) to include emerging climate change related challenges. The strategy recommends sectoral streamlining for better integration and coordination of activities and programs with appropriate environmental and social safeguards. The document presents the strategic framework

³⁹ MOPE. 2002. Nepal: National Action Programme on Land Degradation and Desertification in the Context of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Ministry of Population and Environment, Kathmandu, Nepal

with goals, objectives and an implementation plan for Churia conservation. The document emphasizes the need for: improved legal instruments; conserving the soil and forests through integrated soil and watershed management; conserving and managing species, habitat and the ecosystem along with biological corridors; and improving the livelihoods of poor and marginalized groups.

- MoFSC has also prepared the National Biodiversity Strategy (2002), which highlights the fact that the economic well-being of Nepal is very closely tied to its natural resources, especially the arable land, water, forested areas, and protected areas. The strategy also emphasizes that the Terai and Siwalik represent ecosystems of international importance both in terms of the number and diversity of globally threatened wildlife and floral species.
- As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Environment (MoE) prepared a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), 2010. The NAPA has ranked the Parsa district as high for climate change vulnerability, while the other three focal districts are ranked as moderate. The NAPA has presented 9 project profiles of national adaptation priorities that are applicable across the country. Moreover, it underscores the promotion and upscaling of multi-use systems in integrated management of agriculture, water, forest and biodiversity for the benefit of poor and vulnerable communities in the Churia range and mid hills. It also emphasizes community-based forest fire management in the Terai and mid hills, and management of the biological corridor in Terai and Churia.
- A National Framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA) was prepared in 2011 to implement NAPA priorities. The framework contains LAPA principles, preparation steps, and tools to provide guidance on preparation and implementation of LAPA, and integration of adaptation options into sectoral and development plans. It provides for integrating climate adaptation and resilience into local and national planning in a bottom-up, inclusive, responsive and flexible way. It facilitates the formulation of the LAPA in local bodies such as VDCs, and municipality and district development committees (DDCs).
- The Terai Arc Landscape Strategic Plan, Nepal (2004 – 2014) has also identified the importance of the Churia watershed for conservation, and has identified several drivers of land degradation and mitigation strategies. The primary strategy for forest restoration has been through community-based programs such as community, collaborative, and leasehold forestry that provides the local communities with usufruct and management rights. These strategies have been shown to be successful through the TAL programme.
- Government of Nepal (GoN) endorsed and implemented the first National Conservation Strategy in 1988, during the Seventh National Plan (1985-1990). The main goal of the

National Conservation Strategy is the rational use, protection, preservation, and restoration of renewable resources to meet the basic needs of the people by the year 2000. In January 2012, the National Planning Commission of GoN undertook a revision of the National Conservation Strategy.

2.8. Consistency with GEF Focal Area/Fund Strategies

The project has been designed to address land degradation and deforestation within the Churia Range of Nepal and is closely aligned with the GEF's Land Degradation focal area. The project will utilize US\$ 1 million of Nepal's LD STAR to address national issues that are scalable to produce quantifiable global environmental benefits. The three activity-based project components are well aligned with Objectives 1 and 3 of the GEF-5 Strategy. Specifically, project Component 1 aims to substantially reduce Churia's land degradation process through the interventions in 2,500 ha of degraded agro-pastoral land in the four pilot Churia Range districts. The project is closely aligned with **Land Degradation Objective 1 (LD-1): *Maintain or improve flows of agro-ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities***. The expected outcomes include an enhanced enabling environment within the agriculture sector (**LD Outcome 1.1**) and improved agriculture management (**LD Outcome 1.2**), and will be achieved through implementation of innovative agriculture and land conservation technologies as well as supporting community involvement in the management of land resources.

Project Component 2 aims to expand beyond the scope of the agriculture lands, by addressing wider landscape forest restoration and conservation concerns in 5,000 ha of the four pilot Churia Range districts using an inter-sectoral bottom-up approach. Finally, project Component 3 will compliment these activities by attempting to rectify relevant policy gaps and enable inter-sectoral coordination needed to provide sustainable land tenure and planned land use and land allocation. Project Component 2 and Component 3 are closely aligned to **Land Degradation Objective 3 (LD-3): Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape**. The expected outcomes of Components 2 and 3 include enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management (**LD Outcome 3.1**) and integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities (**LD Outcome 3.2**). These two outcomes will be achieved by promoting an enabling environment in the wider Churia Range landscape to improve the pressure on land resources by local communities.

2.9. WWF Comparative Advantage and Consistency with WWF Programs

WWF's key mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. For the past 13 years, WWF has been implementing conservation and development programs in the two major landscapes of Nepal - the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and the Sacred Himalayan Landscape. The extensive experience of field implementation has generated considerable in-house experience and staff capacity. But, as a science-based organization, WWF is also constantly innovating and testing new and transformational initiatives, and is therefore adapted to constantly assess and build capacity and knowledge. Throughout the years, WW has maintained excellent working relationships with both

government departments and local communities. During the period of civil strife, WWF Nepal was able to maintain a field presence because of the trust of local communities.

WWF Nepal is also providing significant support to the Government of Nepal for policy related work. WWF Nepal is represented in the Executive Committee and Steering Committee of the National Land Use Policy formulation team of the MoLRM. WWF Nepal was also a member in the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Means (the Constituent Assembly was dissolved some months back). Apart from these, WWF Nepal is represented in various committees at the national level including in the national delegation to the UNFCCC.

Participation of WWF in these fora provide an excellent opportunity to engage with the government to bring the policy changes envisioned under this project. WWF Nepal also has the technical and administrative capacity to handle and implement large projects, but also has the advantage of drawing on network expertise and backstopping when necessary.

WWF Nepal's administrative head office is in Kathmandu, with two field offices in the Terai through an agreed implementation modality with MoFSC. WWF Nepal has always had a strong field presence, and has established itself on the frontlines, working with the local communities and government. WWF Nepal is also supporting the GoN on policy development, including contributions to the National Land Use Plan, Climate Change Policy, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) Strategy, Koshi River Basin Management Strategy, Forestry Master Plan and the TAL Strategic Plan (2004 – 2014), and the TAL Implementation Plan (2004–2014). WWF Nepal has a strong GIS/Monitoring and Evaluation unit and an Operation team with dedicated staff capacity to provide technical and administrative support for all programmatic needs.

Internationally, WWF Nepal has strong links to the WWF network. As the first international non-governmental organization to receive GEF Project Agency accreditation and the world's largest independent conservation organization, the comparative advantage of WWF-US rests in the extensive experience of over 50 years of field implementation supported by over 5 million supporters worldwide, working in 80 offices in over 100 countries, supporting around 1,300 conservation and environmental projects led by 13 Global Initiatives and WWF's programmatic pillars of Species Conservation, Forest Conservation, Climate Change and Energy, and Freshwater, supported by crossing cutting issues, especially Social Inclusion and Sustainable Livelihoods. WWF has been particularly successful at building public sector partnerships to bridge science, economic, and policy gaps, and transform markets at the local, country, regional, and global levels.

2.10. Incremental Cost Reasoning

Land degradation is a persistent threat across Nepal. However, because of the fragile geologic composition of the Churia Range, the degradation of agricultural and forested lands in the Churia poses an imminent danger to the livelihoods of over half of Nepal's population as well as globally important flora and fauna. The proposed project will play an essential role in substantially reducing current trends of land degradation by providing transformational support

to two baseline problems – spatial gaps in an integrated ecosystem approach towards land degradation, and lack of nascent national policy implementation.

Conservation projects in Nepal routinely focus on the more popular northern Himalayan range or the more biodiversity-rich western Terai. While the Terai Arc Landscape and the Hariyo Ban Programs focus on the western districts of the Churia Range, only the nascent President’s Churia Conservation Program, which was initiated in 2011, has activities within the central districts. Therefore, these baseline projects have created a spatial gap addressed by this project, not only in terms of conservation efforts, but also integrated landscape management. Land degradation in the Churia Range cannot be addressed on a district level. Rather, land and forest ecosystems cross district boundaries, as do marginalized populations that migrate to newer pastures and forests after depleting old ones. Thus, a spatial gap is not just a liability for political management of natural resources, but is essential for the successful implementation of an integrated ecosystem-based land management approach.

An integrated ecosystem approach also requires integrated management across sectors and at different levels of government. The current baseline projects are focused primarily on the forestry and wildlife sectors, and in engaging local communities in community forestry-based stewardship. There is a pressing need for better collaboration and coordination between different government agencies, especially to engage the agriculture and livestock departments at the district level, and the Ministry of Land Reform and Management for sustainable land-use planning, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and improved livestock management. This will lead to sustainable management of the production landscape.

The proposed GEF project will act at the national level and across the pilot Churia Range districts (Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, and Makwanpur) to facilitate sectoral coordination for more effective project and program implementation. The project will build community level capacity to promote true integrated land management within the Churia. Because ministry involvement is central to the proposed project, a second output of the project will be increased government capacity to replicate the results of the Churia project in other districts across the country.

Despite recognition of the importance of the hydrological role of the Churia in the national land-use policy, there are no clear policies for land-use and land management in the Churia to govern and regulate the complex, and there are uncertain land tenure issues. Until 2012, the primary policy that governed the use and extraction of forest resources and controlled grazing was the Forest Act of 1993. However, because of inadequate capacity within the Forest Department, enforcement of the existing legislation has been weak. Consequently, there is widespread encroachment and illegal extraction of timber and forest products, which has resulted in a ‘tragedy of the commons’ situation in the Churia hills. The National Land Use Policy was approved by the Government of Nepal in April of 2012. The National Land Use Policy 2012 recognizes the importance of the ecosystem services provided by the Churia, and considers sustainable land management to be a clear priority. However, allocating lands, and governing and regulating their use, is difficult because of unclear and often conflicting policies and

complex tenure issues. The proposed GEF project will support the implementation of the 2012 National Land Use Policy in the field for the first time through the conservation and sustainable livelihoods components. The support, participation, and ownership, of local communities will also help to deflect and resist any political or social interference. The project is also expected to catalyze greater interest among other donors once the functional institutions, capable human resources, and financial robustness become evident, enhancing financial sustainability. Because the baseline projects do not have clear objectives to address these policy issues, the proposed GEF project includes a component to address these policy gaps, with capacity building at local (district and village) levels for implementation.

A lack of GEF support (*the business as usual scenario*) would lead to failure of Nepal to substantially reduce land degradation in the Churia Range, resulting in loss of lives and livelihoods from flooding and river bank cutting and significant erosion, loss of globally important biodiversity, and loss of revenue to the national economy due to decreased tourism and a collapsed agro-economy. These issues would also be exacerbated by climate variability and weak management and enforcement of national land use policies. Because the National Land Use Policy is less than a year old, a business as usual scenario would fail to capitalize on the opportune timing to assist the government in the implementation of their policies and set government precedents for future improved management and enforcement of land use policies. This would likely result in a nation-wide “business as usual” scenario, where confusion of land tenure and management, and ineffective government regulation, are already widespread and communities and government agencies are unable to sustainably manage their land and natural resources.

In response, GEF support for this project (*alternative scenario*) will concentrate on addressing the direct and indirect threats, barriers and root causes through active involvement of the local community, which depend on the natural resources as their main source of livelihood, as well as implementation of government policies. The project will encompass community-based interventions focusing on innovative technologies and capacity building of CBOs and ministerial staff.

Active participation of key decision-makers responsible for the joint management of natural resources is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Decision-makers must identify factors that need to be addressed to reach an agreed-upon regional vision while improving their understanding of the social, environmental and economic situation. Improved understanding must be applied by all decision-makers and supported by monitoring, evaluation and adjustment of development processes. The capacity of local communities to drive development processes and to access services of supporting organizations must also be strengthened. In support of this view, the interventions of this project focus on decision-making (including land users and local people) at all levels.

The importance of the GEF contribution therefore lies in the successful demonstration of innovative and sustainable technologies and sustainable land and forest management practices in

the four pilot districts. These activities are supported by significant attention towards community and ministerial capacity building to replicate and upscale the knowledge and lessons learned from the pilot sites to other districts within the Churia Range and across Nepal. Further, the GEF contribution will facilitate government staff and communities to successfully implement national policies and programs, giving these government-led initiatives the opportunity to take root within current, or non-existing, natural resource management practices. This will provide the catalyst needed by the government to achieve sustainable long-term management.

The value of the project therefore lies in the building off government-led land degradation initiatives that are poorly funded and have weak capacity. The emphasis on collective learning-by-doing of local communities and ministry staff will ensure significant capacity building that will lead towards replication across districts in the Churia Range and Nepal. The long term impact and sustainability is thus via improved decision making (at all levels – household to national government), sharing of known and proven technologies and strategies, capacity building of those in important decision making positions, especially at the local level, and sharing of information and knowledge. The global significance lies in the specific mode of project implementation – the testing of a community of practice to improve sustainable land management. The project will also have tangible global environmental benefits. Specifically, the project also aims achieve the following tangible global environmental benefits. First, 7,500 hectares of vegetative cover will be placed under proper sustainable land management with the aim of upscaling in the four Churia Range districts. Second, approximately 3.6 tons/ hectare of CO₂ emissions will be avoided in 5,000 hectares of targeted project sites for improved forest management, yielding approximately 18,000 tons of avoided CO₂ emissions annually, totaling 54,171 tons over the three-year project duration.⁴⁰

2.11. Innovativeness, Sustainability & Cost-Effectiveness

In order to substantially reduce land degradation in the Churia Region, the project will utilize a number of innovative approaches with the hope that results can be replicated within the districts, the country, and the region, to achieve significant results. These results will also be strengthened by a number of approaches that aim to achieve a sustainable and lasting impact after the end of the project whilst maintaining cost-effective measures during project implementation.

Innovation: A number of innovative approaches will be used by the project to achieve sustainable land management. The specific interventions will include introducing and promoting climate-smart, irrigated, terraced agriculture using Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT technology). By using SALT, crops are grown on steep hillsides with minimal erosion while at the same time increasing soil fertility and providing fodder for livestock. Rather than controlling erosion with rock terraces or ditches, SALT relies on rows of vegetation to stabilize soils and maximize planting area. The project will also promote pasture management techniques

⁴⁰ The USAID Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) calculator was used to calculate CO₂ emission calculations. The tool is available online here: <http://www.afolucarbon.org/>

and technology that will prevent overgrazing and erosion. This will be complemented by introducing new breeds of livestock that are more productive, allowing owners to downsize herds and introduce stall feeding to reduce grazing pressure. The project will also reforest degraded steep-sloped lands using bioengineering methods to stabilize slopes and stream and river banks. Lastly, the project will be promoting alternative energy sources to reduce fuelwood use and improve livelihoods that rely on sustainable use of these natural resources

Sustainability: Over the longer term, the project aims for the interventions to reverse the degradation process to improve ecosystem services. To ensure lasting results, the project's good practices will become integrated into other on-going programs in the Churia districts, including the President's Churia Conservation Program, Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Program, and the TAL Program, and will create a synergy for efficient and effective integrated land management for conservation of forest and agro-ecosystem services of the Churia. However, the lasting impact of the project will be supporting the implementation of the National Land Use Policy in the field for the first time. The support, participation, and ownership of local communities in implementing the National Land Use Policy will help to deflect and resist any political or social interference as well as instill ownership of the land. Further, successful implementation of the project is expected to catalyze greater interest among other donors once the functional institutions, capable human resources, and financial robustness become evident, enhancing financial sustainability.

By building capacity of stakeholders, (especially of community based organizations and government extension agencies), the project will ensure continued implementation of projects, and replication of successful models elsewhere. The local resource persons will be able to disseminate their acquired knowledge and expertise to the adjoining communities. Community stewardship and good governance promoted through this project will ensure ownership, accountability, and transparency, with meaningful participation of women, poor and other marginalized groups, for sustained implementation of interventions. The community stewards and stakeholders will be supported by the MoLRM and its district line agencies, such as District Land Survey and District Land Revenue, working in close coordination with MoAD's District Agriculture Offices and District Livestock Offices, and the District Forest Offices. Thus, while the project will exit from the specific sites, the interventions can be replicated and upscaled in other areas of the four districts and elsewhere in the Churia.

Cost-Effectiveness: The project will implement the following to achieve cost-effective measures that allow the proposed GEF Medium Sized Project to extend the maximum amount of financial resources to project intervention activities and on-the-ground action.

Implementing Activities and Project Monitoring and Evaluation: When the activities are to be implemented and monitored and evaluated, a cost analysis will be taken into account but will not compromise the quality of the output needed. Workshops/trainings/seminars will be organized taking into account quality but economically comparing 3 options as appropriate. The

investments made in activities will be designed to enhance understanding for broader stakeholders locally, in the region and internationally.

Hiring Third Party Consultants: Many of the deliverables might require third party consultants and partners for the activities. The member organizations will follow an advertisement process to have at least three competitors and the selection will be based on human resources, technicalities and financial proposal adopting an in-house consultative-discussion process and documenting the same.

Travel: When absolutely necessary, travel is to be made both nationally, regionally or locally, and economic fares will be applied for air and road travel and appropriate lodging facilities will be provided to the project staff that ensures staff safety. Expenses will be accounted for as per the member organization office policy and in line with the donor policy. The offices will apply their official process to select the travel agent which gives cost competitive rates where appropriate.

Equipment Purchase/ Printing and Publishing: All of the member organizations will follow a tendering process for equipment purchase and printing/publishing that accounts for more than USD \$20,000.00 and compare at least three vendors. In case there is a single vendor only for any activity, appropriate official norms will be followed to get an approval from the highest authority of the organizations with clear justifications in writing.

Providing opportunities: The project will provide opportunities that ensure a broad stakeholder engagement process where appropriate. This will follow a bottom up process if necessary, and will ensure engagement of local communities, indigenous people, youth, students, marginalized communities, and will be gender and socially inclusive.

Involving WWF Staff: WWF Nepal will also involve its staff as part-time to support the project. This will also help reduce the overall management cost of hiring new staff for the project.

Scalability: The value of the project therefore lies in the building off government-led land degradation initiatives that are insufficiently funded and have inadequate capacity. The emphasis is on collective learning-by-doing of local communities and ministry staff will ensure significant capacity building that will lead towards replication across districts in the Churia Range and Nepal. The long term impact and sustainability is thus via improved decision making (at all levels – household to national government), sharing of known and proven technologies and strategies, capacity building of those in important decision making positions, especially at the local level, and sharing of information and knowledge. The global significance lies in the specific mode of project implementation – the testing of a community of practice to improve sustainable land management.

2.12. Communication Strategy

The communication goal is to facilitate the understanding of the adverse effects and consequences of land degradation to livelihoods, lives, biodiversity, and ecosystem services

among relevant stakeholders to enhance their knowledge and to influence positive attitudes and behavior. The project will pursue communication, participation, and information sharing by engaging the principal stakeholders (i.e., the local communities, civil society organizations, and government agencies and ministries) throughout the project period. The primary audiences for this program are local stakeholders and government ministries. The secondary audiences include other civil society groups, regional and global private sector actors, international non-governmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

Information Sharing: The project will prioritize both internal and external communication. Knowledge sharing and disseminating lessons learned will be key components. Information on best practices will be disseminated to national and international stakeholders. The planning phase of this project has been pursued by WWF in close collaboration with the Government of Nepal. Consultation events were convened with government representatives and local communities to establish specific priorities for the project, and to build upon the previous conservation initiatives and expertise of WWF in the Churia Range region. Field visits were undertaken with government ministry representatives for consultations with DDC, VDC, and community stakeholders to share information about the proposed project and discuss issues related to land degradation (Annexure 3).

The WWF team associated with this project comprises national, field level, and network staff. Information has been and will be shared weekly among team members. External to team operations, information will be shared with other stakeholders as necessary to keep all parties apprised of developments associated with the project.

Communication Activities: The communication activities will support the achievement of the project objectives and goal. The communication objectives are as follows:

- a. To enhance the understanding of key stakeholders regarding land degradation and the importance of sustainable land management interventions.
- b. To provide knowledge and influence attitudes and behaviour of targeted audiences to adopt sustainable agricultural and livestock management practices.
- c. To strengthen the voices of women, poor, traditionally marginalized, and ethnic minority groups, and promote their meaningful participation in good governance and management of forests and natural resources.
- d. To facilitate the engagement of key stakeholders and government representatives in decision making processes to promote sustainable land management and implementation of appropriate policies and strategies.
- e. To document and share project successes, lessons learned and best practices with wider audiences, including baseline projects.

Based on the communication goal and objectives, activities will be implemented throughout the duration of the project. The activities will include publication and dissemination of outreach materials, such as a brochure in English and Nepali to provide information on the project, areas of work, and core components. Primary audiences, namely rural communities with lack of access to digital technology, may be most responsive to traditional mass media including television, radio, and print, while secondary audiences may be reached effectively via online media platforms. To share information with GEF, the Government of Nepal, and field staff, regular updates will be provided electronically to highlight the progress of project activities, as well as to document achievements, stories, and lessons learned. Other tools to market and communicate with various audiences include announcements, invitations, agendas and reports of discussion fora, and community interaction programs, as well as maps, work plans, data analyses, reports, training materials and project documents. The project will also disseminate communication materials such as fact sheets, videos and other publications. The information sharing and communication activities will play an instrumental role in raising awareness among relevant local and national stakeholders about land degradation in the Churia region.

In accordance with the Communication and Visibility Policy of the GEF, all contractual agreements will include a clear reference to the GEF on the cover page. In addition, the GEF logo will be applied in all outreach materials. Documents and publications will contain the GEF logo, and the cover page will have the phrase: “This project/program is funded by the Global Environment Facility”. All material produced in paper form will be made available in electronic form, and a link to the GEF website will be included in website content related to the GEF-funded project/activity. WWF Nepal will coordinate with GEF to issue a standard joint press release at the start and completion of the project. Press conferences will be organized in cooperation with the GEF Secretariat, and will include appropriate use of the GEF logo. Visits by government officials to project areas will be prepared in coordination with the Country Relations Officer of the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Focal Points for Nepal. The GEF logo will appear at the beginning or end of audio-visual materials, which will be shared with the GEF Secretariat.

SECTION 3: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The MoLRM will designate the Joint Secretary of the Ministry as the coordinator for the project. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) shall be formed at the central level to provide policy guidance, support, and to approve annual work plans. The PSC is chaired by the Secretary of MoLRM and members represented from MoFSC, MoAD, MoSTE, MoF, WWF Nepal, and World Wildlife Fund Inc. The appointed Coordinator serves as the member secretary. Invitees will attend as needed. The PSC will meet bi-annually.

A Project Coordination Committee (PCC) will be formed to enhance coordination among the partners and to facilitate development of annual work plans. The PCC will be represented by the Joint Secretaries of the MoFSC, MoAD, MoSTE and by WWF Nepal. The PCC will be chaired

by the Joint Secretary of MoLRM. The PCC Chair will also be the Project Coordinator. The issues from the field implementation are brought into the discussion and resolved at PCC meetings, which will be held every week, but can be called upon as and when required.

The on-the-ground implementation will be handled by the Project Management Unit. It will be housed in Kathmandu at the WWF Nepal office. A Project Manager and an F&A Officer will be seconded from WWF Nepal and they will constitute the team with the PCC Coordinator. The GEF Project Management Team (Project Coordinator, Project Manager and F&A Officer) shall be responsible for overall project implementation, documentation and monitoring of the proposed activities. It is further supported by the district line agencies of the respective ministries for smooth implementation of the activities. Following a project cycle, the project management team, in close coordination with district offices and community users, will develop the annual program and budget that will be submitted to the PSC for endorsement through the PCC.

Roles and Responsibilities (Fund Flow and Planning and Monitoring)

WWF Nepal and MoLRM will sign a Grant Agreement on the basis of the approved annual program. The GEF Project Management Team will sign a Sub-grant or Inter Office Agreement with partner ministries (MoLRM, MoFSC, and MoAD). The respective ministries will devise a fund flow mechanism to their respective district offices or community groups based on existing systems/mechanisms.

The fund flows from the project account to the accounts of the respective district offices, local communities, and NGOs/CBOs will be in the form of grants (either cash or in kind), based on the nature of the approved program. A Project Operation Manual will be provided to facilitate the implementation of program activities. The financial transaction and auditing will be carried out under the guidance of this manual.

The GEF Project Management Team will employ a Project Manager. The position is supported by a Finance and Administrative Officer, two technical leads and an M&E lead. A coordinator sits on top to provide overall guidance and facilitate the process with the lead and partner ministries. The Project Manager, with support from WWF's in-house staff, will have part time involvement and will help develop the annual work programs in a participatory manner. This will include involving all stakeholders in multi-stakeholder forums (to the extent possible) and submission of the work programs to the GEF Project Management Team for subsequent endorsement by the PSC. The program endorsed by the PSC will be implemented by identified partners (including civil society organizations) and reported back to the project office. The role and responsibility of the Project Manager and associated staff will be identified in the terms of reference drafted prior to the project inception meeting. World Wildlife Fund Inc., as the GEF Project Agency, will monitor the status of project implementation through regular reporting defined by agreements with executing partners and annual supervision missions. The cycle of project planning, monitoring and reporting will be performed as depicted in the Project Operation Manual.

SECTION 4: STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Each project objective will prioritize gender and social inclusion as an integral component to ensure equitable social and economic benefits and respect for dignity and human rights. The institutional framework for gender mainstreaming will strengthen participation by women and ensure equal opportunities to lead and or represent in all project activities. All consultations will include both men and women, and all analyses will be based on gender-disaggregated data and indicators. Gender equality and social inclusion will also be a key parameter when supporting policy development processes of the government.

The key partners in the implementation of this project will include both governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as local communities in the four project districts. The partners will include the following:

- **Ministry of Finance.** The MOF is the central authority of Government of Nepal charged with the responsibility of maintaining both micro- and macro-economic stability in the country. The Ministry will play a key role in monitoring the fiduciary issues under this project, and is the operational focal point for the project. The representatives of the ministry will sit on the steering committee of the project.
- **Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.** The MoSTE is the focal ministry to the UNCCD, and will play a key role to fulfil the obligation of reporting on land degradation mitigation as per the provision laid out by the UNCCD. The MoSTE will play a bridging role between the UNCCD process and the project, including to inform the project on current decisions from the UNCCD CoPs. WWF has a Scope of Cooperation signed with the MoSTE.
- **Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation.** The MoFSC has jurisdiction over state forests and protected areas, and will be responsible for issues related to community management of state forests, soil conservation, and watershed management. The Ministry also looks into issues related to REDD+. The District Forest Offices under this ministry will be key in implementing sustainable forest management activities in the four districts. WWF has a Scope of Cooperation with the MoFSC and MoUs with the Department of Forest and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.
- **Ministry of Land Reform and Management.** The MoLRM is the lead ministry for the project. It is also a core ministry mandated with land administration and management activities, and will be an important partner to ensure efficient administration and sustainable management of land resources. It is also the prime responsibility of the ministry to provide effective and efficient service delivery to the general public. WWF has a MoU signed with MoLRM.
- **Ministry of Agriculture Development.** The MoAD is mandated with agriculture and livestock development. The relevant departments in this ministry will provide technical assistance and extension services to introduce and implement sustainable agricultural practices and livestock management. The Department of Agriculture along with the District

Agriculture Office will be key in implementing sustainable agricultural activities in the four districts.

- **Social Welfare Council.** The SWC is the apex body of the government that monitors and manages non-state actors working in the country. WWF, as an international non-governmental organization, is mandated to work in the country as per the agreement made with SWC. WWF is registered in the SWC.
- **Other partners.** Other local partners include several line agencies of the ministries. These include DFO, DAO, DSCO, DFCC, DDC, VDC, CBOs, and Networks, community based organizations, NGOs, I/NGOs, FECOFUN, NEFIN, DANAR.
- **Local communities.** The project will engage a diverse group of community stakeholders and representatives of the four districts of Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, and Makwanpur. This will prioritize the engagement of women, poor, dalit and the indigenous members of these communities.
- **WWF Nepal.** WWF Nepal will be a key stakeholder to coordinate other key stakeholder and successfully execute the overall project. WWF Nepal will also play a lead role in the execution of specific project activities, especially at the local community level. As noted in Section 3, WWF Nepal, as a country office of World Wildlife Fund Inc., will enter into a contractual agreement with the project executing ministries for this project.

SECTION 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Organizational Commitment to M&E: Developed in conjunction with major international environmental NGOs and endorsed by the WWF Network, our Program and Project Management Standards lend consistency to planning, implementing and monitoring effective conservation projects and programs worldwide. The monitoring plan is designed to help project teams plan, execute, monitor and report progress towards achieving objectives in a consistent and routine manner.

Performance indicators have been selected and clearly defined to enable uniform data collection and analysis. The frequency and schedule of data collection is defined for the project, as well as the roles and responsibilities of project team members. Our standards for project management call for adaptive management with decision-making based on the routine and quality submission of project status and performance information. Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a cornerstone of our organizational standards and deeply embedded within our projects, programs and portfolios.

Project M&E Summary: The project will employ participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E), with an informative and proactive feedback mechanism integrated at all levels of the decision-making and adaptive management process. WWF has adopted standardized M&E protocols, processes and tools to aid this process. Best practices in program monitoring and evaluation, tools and techniques will be incorporated into our technical capacity-building and mentoring activities for communities and district governments. A combination of in-person training modules and guidance documents will facilitate the dissemination of information and tools. Our practical approach to M&E includes a collaborative process of routine information sharing and coordination among partners, subrecipients, and other project stakeholders.

Monitoring activities will take place throughout the project life cycle. Project M&E includes interim progress reviews and a formal terminal evaluation. Project monitoring is carried out at four levels: 1) community level; 2) project or site level; 3) project/program level or central level; and 4) donor or funding agency level. The monitoring system will employ the latest in state-of-the-art tools and approaches in participatory M&E. Source documentation will be collected and stored in the project monitoring workspace. Project monitoring will include tracking activity implementation, project schedules, project spending, and project results. The GEF Land Degradation Tracking Tool will be completed using the data and measurements collected each year and submitted according to donor requirements.

Systems and Tools for M&E: Through enhanced technical capacity and learning supported by prior USG assistance and other bilateral institutions, WWF now employs a project management system with collaborative workspaces to facilitate improved project tracking, monitoring and oversight. WWF utilizes a project progress and performance monitoring software solution with defined workspaces containing spreadsheets, Gantt charts, dashboards and roll-up reports to support adaptive management and oversight throughout implementation. These workspaces are designed with a minimum set of framework requirements to allow for portfolio-wide roll-ups and

reporting, while maintaining flexibility within the program workspaces for project-specific variations.

Performance indicator measurements and source documentation will be collected and stored in a centralized database for review and analysis by the project management team. Standardized and secure web forms and virtual spreadsheets are used to collect monitoring data from project staff and partners in real time worldwide. Our collection methodology supports the timeliness and quality of project data to better serve the adaptive management cycle. Required source documentation is also collected, reviewed and stored along with each measurement to harmonize the monitoring process and promote data quality. Project managers will routinely see backup documentation along with each measurement to ensure best practices are maintained across the program and through implementation. Monitoring information and measurements will be submitted the GEF Evaluation offices using the approved focal area tracking tool.

Progress and Performance Monitoring Designs: Implementation progress and performance monitoring will be guided by project design, adhering to the results chains by strategy (see Appendix 3: Results Chain) and the logical framework (logframe) document (Appendix 5: Logical Framework). Performance and result measures have been summarized into matrix format (Appendix 13: M&E Plan) to facilitate tracking, consistency and collaboration. Baselines and targeted incremental measurements will be set during the inception phase of the project, in collaboration with project partners and key stakeholders. Activities and processes will be closely monitored by the field/extension officers and program managers at WWF US HQ. Outputs and results will be reviewed bi-annually. Project deliverables, achievements, setbacks, and incremental measurements will be reviewed by the project implementation team and program managers. The results of the bi-annual internal progress review and planning will inform the adaptive management process. Monitoring information and measurements will also inform the annual reporting and work plan development.

Biodiversity Target Monitoring: The project design includes two primary forest areas for biodiversity conservation and tracking. Project activities have been designed to maintain or improve the health of the Churia sal forest and mixed forest areas across the four pilot districts of the Churia. The target forest size showing maintained or improved biophysical conditions by project completion is 5,000 ha. If feasible, spatial measurements will be taken to demonstrate the maintained condition of forest areas in project sites. Forest types within the Churia region have lengthy recovery periods so improved biophysical conditions may not be directly measureable within a three year period. As a proxy indicator, the project has selected “number of hectares of forested areas in project sites under improved management” for this measure. Additionally, pressure from human activities on forest services and flows will be measured using case studies on alternative energy and income generating activities.

Best Practices and Alternative Technologies: Project field officers will track and record the number of user groups or farmers who adopt or implement improved and sustainable agro-pastoral best practices as an indicator of success in converting local practices. The community

groups and farmers adopting improved strategies will also be quantified and tracked throughout implementation. Converting local agro-pastoral practices is crucial to substantially reducing land degradation within the four pilot districts of the Churia Range. A knowledge management series and best practices guide will be developed and disseminated to support this strategy.

Alternative energy technology and the households who benefit will also be measured, together with fuel-wood use. Declines in local fuel-wood usage and households converted to alternative technologies (biogas, solar, etc.) will serve as indicators to track pressure on forests from extraction activities. The forest cover and fragmentation indicator mentioned above will also serve as another indicator of pressure on the forests. Field teams will record information regarding the households that receive alternative technologies and training. Households identified as impoverished or marginalized will be prioritized for this activity, with plans to reach about 200 of those disadvantaged households in the region.

Agro-pastoral and Forest Ecosystem Services and Flows: Agro-pastoral systems and flows will be measured by tracking the number of hectares under sustainable management and the number of community groups implementing sustainable practices for agriculture and livestock. The number of hectares of agro-pastoral land under sustainable management demonstrates a mitigation of activities contributing to land degradation. The more community user groups converted to sustainable practices in the agro-pastoral sectors demonstrates a reduction in the unsustainable activities that threaten the landscape. These indicators will serve as proxies for improved agro-ecosystem flows and services with a target measurement of 2,500 ha under improved management by project completion.

Adequate and healthy soil conditions promote healthy forests and land areas that support agriculture and livestock sectors. Maintaining or reducing the density/compaction of soil across project sites demonstrates a reduction in over-grazing and livestock trampling. Soil fertility and surface conditions will also be analyzed from test spots across project sites. Nutrient density, salinity, and erosion will be assessed using standards accepted by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. Biological GIS measurements regarding vegetation cover in project sites may also serve as a proxy indicator for degradation and the condition of the soil in project sites. Maintaining or improving vegetative cover in the project sites demonstrates the implementation of sustainable practices and reduction of land degradation trends.

Land Management Planning and Policies: Forest areas under community management will be tracked using Forest Operational Plans. The informed contents of relevant plans will serve as an indicator of success in advancing forest conservation efforts. Field teams will track forest operation plans through development phases, negotiations, and agency adoption where feasible.

Policy dialogue and discussions will be measured by the number of multi-stakeholder fora established by the project, and the process in establishing such fora. The resulting policy dialogues and underlying outcomes will be tracked throughout implementation and measured at project completion.

Cross-sectoral Coordination and Community Engagement: The cross-sectoral coordination and community engagement will be measured by the number of cross-sectoral plans formulated with support from the project. The improved capacity of the government officials and community based organizations will be monitored using the capacity assessment tracking tool at the beginning and end of the project. The improved capacity is also reflected in the national reporting quality according to the UNCCD guidelines. The outcomes will show the early signs of project impact, and may at times extend beyond the three-year project period. The overall project impact is measured against hectares of area with improvement in land quality in the selected sites of the pilot districts. Impact on the local biodiversity and landscape health is expected to be realized 2-5 years after project inception.

Diverse inclusion and participation will be monitoring with gender and social disaggregation for monitoring indicators. In addition, specific project outputs in Component 3 will measure the success of social inclusion in implementation and the equitable sharing of project benefits. Gender has been mainstreamed within the project and monitoring plans.

Project Evaluations and Learning: The project requires a terminal evaluation in the final year. The final evaluation at the end of the project will test the robustness of the program design, efficiency and effectiveness of the investment including the value for money, impact of the intervention and the sustainability of the investment and achievements. Progress updates will be prepared throughout implementation with a mid-term review conducted as a part of adaptive management cycle. Lessons learned and strategies will be assessed in these periodic reviews and during bi-annual and annual planning.

The knowledge management and learning strategy is gradually evolving in WWF Nepal. The technical team will draft learning questions related to the project design, planning, and implementation. These questions will address whether or not the project identified and dissected inter-sectoral policy issues at the field level, if the project has been able to incorporate the entire value-chain in agricultural practices, and if issues related to zonation have been addressed. It will capture the planned learning as well as emergent lessons, success factors, and the processes related to plan formulation and institutional development of the community groups. The learning forms an integral part of adaptive management in the iterative project management cycle in ensuing years.

SECTION 6: PROJECT FINANCING AND BUDGET

6.1. Overall project budget



WWF *for a living planet*®

Project Nr:
Project Title:
Forest restoration and sustainable land management in the Churia
Range, Nepal
Activity Full Title:
DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FORMAT:

Budget issued on: 5-Aug-13
Budget prepared by: Narayan KC
Office name: WWF Nepal

Combined Budget:

In [US \$]

CATEGORY			RATE			UNIT			Budget						PROJECT TOTAL	
									YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3			
									#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost
						</										

TRAVEL																	
WWF Budget Note, Page 2																	
IN COUNTRY TRAVEL:																	
Staff - Travel Airfares																	
1	Kathmandu - Simara	\$	101	R/T	11.00	\$	1,111	11.00	\$	1,111	11.00	\$	1,111	33.00	\$	3,333	
2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur	\$	112	R/T	11.00	\$	1,232	11.00	\$	1,232	11.00	\$	1,232	33.00	\$	3,696	
Subtotal - Airfares							\$	2,343		\$	2,343		\$	2,343		\$	7,029
Staff - Perdiem Costs																	
1	Kathmandu - Simara (3 days/trip)	\$	30	Day	33.00	\$	990	33.00	\$	990	33.00	\$	990	99.00	\$	2,970	
2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur (3 days/trip)	\$	30	Day	33.00	\$	990	33.00	\$	990	33.00	\$	990	99.00	\$	2,970	
Subtotal - Staff - Perdiem Costs							\$	1,980		\$	1,980		\$	1,980		\$	5,940
Vehicle rental & other costs																	
1	Vehicle rental, Simara (2 days/trip)	\$	146	Trip/Day	22.00	\$	3,212	22.00	\$	3,212	22.00	\$	3,212	66.00	\$	9,636	
2	Vehicle rental, Bharatpur (2 days/trip)	\$	146	Trip/Day	22.00	\$	3,212	22.00	\$	3,212	22.00	\$	3,212	66.00	\$	9,636	
Subtotal - rental & other costs							\$	6,424		\$	6,424		\$	6,424		\$	19,272
TOTAL - TRAVEL						\$	10,747		\$	10,747		\$	10,747		\$	32,241	
CONTRACTUAL																	
WWF Budget Note, Page 3-4																	
Consultant Rates																	
1	Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	\$	115	Day	0.00	\$	-	30.00	\$	3,450	30.00	\$	3,450	60.00	\$	6,900	
2	IEC materials development (Community awareness)	\$	115	Day	15.00	\$	1,725	15.00	\$	1,725	0.00	\$	-	30.00	\$	3,450	
3	Baseline Assessment	\$	650	Day	20.00	\$	13,000	0.00	\$	-	0.00	\$	-	20.00	\$	13,000	
4	GIS Mapping	\$	115	Day	11.00	\$	1,265	10.00	\$	1,150	11.00	\$	1,265	32.00	\$	3,680	
5	Project Final Evaluation	\$	650	Day	0.00	\$	-	0.00	\$	-	25.00	\$	16,250	25.00	\$	16,250	
6	Annual Financial Audit	\$	150	Day	12.00	\$	1,800	12.00	\$	1,800	12.00	\$	1,800	36.00	\$	5,400	
Sub-Total Consultant Rates							\$	17,790		\$	8,125		\$	22,765		\$	48,680
Consultant Expenses																	
1	Perdiem, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	\$	30	Day	0.00	\$	-	20.00	\$	600	20.00	\$	600	40.00	\$	1,200	

2	Airfare - Bharatpur, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson.	\$ 112	R/T	0.00	\$ -	2.00	\$ 224	2.00	\$ 224	4.00	\$ 448
3	Vehicle Rental, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson.	\$ 146	Day	0.00	\$ -	6.00	\$ 874	6.00	\$ 874	12.00	\$ 1,747
4	Perdiem, travel expenses, Baseline Assessment	\$ 250	Day	15.00	\$ 3,750	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	15.00	\$ 3,750
5	Airfare - International, Baseline Assessment	\$ 3,000	R/T	1.00	\$ 3,000	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 3,000
6	Airfare, In -country, Baseline Assessment	\$ 200	R/T	1.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 200
7	Perdiem, travel expenses, Project Final Evaluation	\$ 250	Day	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	25.00	\$ 6,250	25.00	\$ 6,250
8	Airfare - International, Project Final Evaluation	\$ 3,000	R/T	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 3,000	1.00	\$ 3,000
9	Airfare, In -country, Project Final Evaluation	\$ 200	R/T	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	2.00	\$ 400	2.00	\$ 400
10	Perdiem and other expenses, Financial Audit	\$ 30	Day	16.00	\$ 480	16.00	\$ 480	16.00	\$ 480	48.00	\$ 1,440
11	Airfare, Kathmandu - Bharatpur, Financial Audit	\$ 112	R/T	2.00	\$ 224	2.00	\$ 224	2.00	\$ 224	6.00	\$ 672
12	Vehicle hire, Financial Audit	\$ 146	Day	6.00	\$ 876	6.00	\$ 876	6.00	\$ 876	18.00	\$ 2,628
Subtotal - Consultant Expenses					\$ 8,530		\$ 3,278		\$ 12,928		\$ 24,735
TOTAL - CONTRACTUAL					\$ 26,320		\$ 11,403		\$ 35,693		\$ 73,415
OTHER											
<u>GRANTS & AGREEMENTS</u>											
WWF Budget Note, Page 4-6											
1	Grant to MoAD, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	1.00	\$ 74,631	1.00	\$ 49,280	1.00	\$ 45,640	3.00	\$ 169,551
2	Grant to MoFSC, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	1.00	\$ 53,365	1.00	\$ 62,667	1.00	\$ 42,080	3.00	\$ 158,112
3	Grant to MoLRM, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	1.00	\$ 37,391	1.00	\$ 45,500	1.00	\$ 6,580	3.00	\$ 89,471
5	Support to CBOs	\$ 1,515	no.	13.00	\$ 19,695	14.00	\$ 21,210	13.00	\$ 19,695	40.00	\$ 60,600
Subtotal -Grants & Agreements					\$ 185,082		\$ 178,657		\$ 113,995		\$ 477,734
TOTAL - GRANTS & AGREEMENTS					\$ 185,082		\$ 178,657		\$ 113,995		\$ 477,734
<u>WORKSHOPS</u>											
WWF Budget Note, Page 6-7											
Workshops/Training Venue & Facilities											
1	Capacity building WWF/partners	\$ 2,500	Ea.	1.00	\$ 2,500	1.00	\$ 2,500	1.00	\$ 2,500	3.00	\$ 7,500
2	Joint project planning and review	\$ 1,750	Event	1.00	\$ 1,750	1.00	\$ 1,750	1.00	\$ 1,750	3.00	\$ 5,250
3	Cross learning/sharing	\$ 1,500	Event	1.00	\$ 1,500	1.00	\$ 1,500	1.00	\$ 1,500	3.00	\$ 4,500

	workshop										
4	GEF Inception Meeting	\$ 2,700	Event	1.00	\$ 2,700	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 2,700
5	GEF Wrap-up meeting	\$ 2,700	Ea.	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 2,700	1.00	\$ 2,700
6	Field partners coordination meeting	\$ 1,500	Ea.	1.00	\$ 1,500	1.00	\$ 1,500	1.00	\$ 1,500	3.00	\$ 4,500
	Subtotal - Workshops/Training & Facilities				\$ 9,950		\$ 7,250		\$ 9,950		\$ 27,150
	TOTAL - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS				\$ 9,950		\$ 7,250		\$ 9,950		\$ 27,150
	OTHER DIRECT COSTS:										
	WWF Budget Note, Page 7-8										
1	IEC Materials, good practices document	\$ 2	Pub /copy	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1000	\$ 2,000	1000	\$ 2,000
2	IEC materials development (Community awareness)	\$ 2	Pub /copy	0.00	\$ -	1000.	\$ 2,000	1000	\$ 2,000	2000	\$ 4,000
3	GPS and Camera	\$ 815	Ea.	4.00	\$ 3,260	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	4.00	\$ 3,260
4	Laptop Computer	\$ 1,650	Ea.	3.00	\$ 6,600	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	3.00	\$ 6,600
5	Motorbike	\$ 3,197	Ea.	3.00	\$ 9,591	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	3.00	\$ 9,591
6	Desktop Computer	\$ 885	Ea.	1.00	\$ 885	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 885
7	Printer	\$ 500	Ea.	1.00	\$ 500	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 500
8	Fax/scanner	\$ 231	Ea.	1.00	\$ 231	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 231
9	Photocopier	\$ 750	Ea.	1.00	\$ 750	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 750
10	LCD Projector	\$ 900	Ea.	1.00	\$ 900	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	1.00	\$ 900
11	Telephone set	\$ 40	Ea.	5.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	5.00	\$ 200
12	Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 650	Ea.	5.00	\$ 3,250	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	5.00	\$ 3,250
13	Stationary & Supplies	\$ 100	Mo.	12.00	\$ 1,200	12.00	\$ 1,200	12.00	\$ 1,200	36.00	\$ 3,600
14	Field Running Costs (fuel, insurance, maintenance & tax]	\$ 175	Mo.	12.00	\$ 2,100	12.00	\$ 2,100	12.00	\$ 2,100	36.00	\$ 6,300
15	Field gears/supplies	\$ 75	Set	4.00	\$ 300	1.00	\$ 75	1.00	\$ 75	6.00	\$ 450
	Subtotal - Other Direct Costs				\$ 29,767		\$ 5,375		\$ 7,375		\$ 42,517
	TOTAL-OTHER DIRECT COSTS				\$ 29,767		\$ 5,375		\$ 7,375		\$ 42,517
	TOTAL - OTHER				\$ 224,799		\$ 191,282		\$ 131,320		\$ 547,401
	TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITY COSTS				\$ 341,738		\$ 301,290		\$ 274,403		\$ 917,431

6.2. Overall project budget narrative

Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

BUDGET NOTES

1. PERSONNEL

The salary scales given in the budget are as per the existing salary scale of WWF Nepal. Based on the annual performance review carried out in July each year, the salaries are adjusted for merit increments and any costs of living as per the scales approved by WWF US.

The following staff is budgeted across all components:

Project Manager – 100%: Project Manager will technically be responsible for program planning and support, as well as supervising field project staff to ensure effective implementation, progress documentation, timely donor reporting, and partnership building. The Project Manager will be the focal person on behalf of the project to ensure coordination among all partners. The Project Manager will contribute 20% of his time to the Agro-Ecosystem and Forest Ecosystem services components; 25% to the Capacity Building and Coordination component; 15% to M&E; and 20% to direct project management.

Finance Officer – 100%: Responsible for managing project sub-grants and their deliverables, and monitoring financial progress to ensure compliance with policies and procedures. The Finance Officer will contribute 10% of his time to the Agro-Ecosystem and Forest Ecosystem services components; 15% to the Capacity Building and Coordination component; 10% to M&E; and 55% to direct project management.

Agro-Ecosystem Technical Lead – 100%: Technical Lead will be responsible for field level program implementation, coordination and reporting. Provides technical support to district line agencies and communities in field program delivery, and ensures effective field coordination and communications with the partners/stakeholders.

Forest Ecosystem Technical Lead – 100%: Technical Lead will be responsible for field level program implementation, coordination and reporting. Provides technical support to district line agencies and communities in field program delivery, and ensures effective field coordination and communications with the partners/stakeholders.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Lead – 100%: Responsible for framing the comprehensive monitoring and database management (MIS) system based on PMP. Ensures timely review, reporting and evaluations of the project/program.

2. STAFF BENEFITS

WWF is budgeting for local staff benefits in accordance with standard labor practices and laws of Nepal, including provident fund, festival bonus, and gratuity per the HR Manual. Costs for local staff benefits are included in the staff costs budgeted.

3. CO-FINANCING

The following co-financing is proposed for this project:

Source	Project Component	Cash or In Kind	Amount
MoLRM	Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services	Cash	\$ 227,523
	Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement	Cash	\$ 530,887
MoFSC	Integrated landscape management in the wider Churia Range forested areas and, Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement	Cash	\$ 1,346,772
MoAD	Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services	Cash	\$ 1,444,818
WWF Nepal	Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services	Cash	\$ 22,500
	Integrated landscape management in the wider Churia Range forested areas	Cash	\$ 261,563
	Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement	Cash	\$6 9,000
	Monitoring & Evaluation	Cash	\$18,187
	Program Management	Cash	\$78,750
WWF HQ	Monitoring & Evaluation	Cash	\$167.667
	Program Management	Cash	\$231.197
Total			\$ 4,398,864

4. TRAVEL – STAFF

The staff travel costs are for technical support for field program planning and coordination. The costs include airfare, meals, accommodation and other travel costs.

In-Country Travel: estimated to be distributed fairly evenly between the three activity components, M&E, and Project Management, with slightly more travel going to M&E.

Purpose: Field program planning, coordination and monitoring

Origin - Destination	# of trips	Cost of Air Tickets	Total Airfare (A)	# of Days	Per Diem (lodging/ meals & incidentals)	Total Per Diem (B)	Grand Total (A + B)
Kathmandu - Simara	33	\$ 101	\$3,333	99	\$ 30	\$ 2,970	\$ 6,303
Kathmandu - Bharatpur	33	\$ 112	\$ 3,696	99	\$ 30	\$ 2,970	\$ 6,666
Total			\$7,022			\$5,940	\$12,969

Purpose: Site visits in the four districts served which must be made by road.

Vehicle Rental	Cost of rental per day	# of Days	Total
day trips to the field	\$146	2 days/trip x 11 trips/year x 3 years x 2 sites = 132	\$19,272

5. CONTRACTUAL

Based upon the pool of possible consultants, the following consultant days will be coordinated over the life of the project, using international, regional and/or local consultants as appropriate:

A. For Component 1 and Component 2 there are two consultancies, one in the second year, and one in the third year.

These 2 consultancies will contribute to Output 1.2.6 and Output 2.1.4 of the project proposal.

(1) Purpose of each consultancy: Develop and disseminate good practices and lessons learned

(2) Total amount of consultancy: \$ 12,772

(3) Total Fees: [$\$115/\text{day} \times 30 \text{ days}$] *2 = \$6,900

(4) Expenses: $\$1,698 \times 2 = \$ 3,395$ for travel costs as follows:

Purpose: Develop and disseminate good practices and lesson learned

Origin - Destination	# of trips	Cost of Air Tickets	Total Airfare (A)	# of Days	Per Diem (lodging/ meals & incidentals)	Total Per Diem (B)	Other (Vehicle Rental \$ 146/day (C))	Grand Total (A + B + C)
Kathmandu – Bharatpur	4	\$ 112	\$ 448	40	\$ 30	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,747	\$3,395
Total			\$ 224			\$ 1,200	\$ 1,747	\$ 3,395

B. Capacity Building and Coordination

This consultancy will contribute to Output 3.1.5 of the project proposal.

(1) Purpose of consultancy: IEC Material development (Community awareness)

(2) Total amount of consultancy: \$ 3,450

(3) Total Fees: [$\$115/\text{day} \times 30 \text{ days}$] days = \$ 3,450

(4) Expenses: = \$ 0

C. Baseline Assessment

This consultancy will contribute to Output 4.1.1 of the project proposal.

(1) Total amount of consultancy: \$ 19,950.00

(2) Total Fees: [$\$ 650/\text{day}$] x [20 days] days = \$ 13,000.00

(3) Expenses: \$ 6,950.00 for travel costs as follows:

Purpose: Field assessment

Origin - Destination	# of trips	Cost of Air Tickets	Total Airfare (A)	# of Days	Per Diem (lodging/ meals & incidentals)	Total Per Diem (B)	Grand Total (A + B)
US - Nepal	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	15	\$ 250	\$ 3,750	\$ 6,750
Kathmandu - Bharatpur	1	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 200
Total			\$ 3,200			\$ 3,750	\$ 6,950

D. GIS Mapping

This will fund Output 4.1.1 of the project proposal.

- (1) Total amount of consultancy: \$ 3,680
- (2) Total Fees: [\$ 115/day] x [32 days] days = \$ 3,680
- (3) Expenses: NA

E. Project Final Evaluation

This will fund Output 4.1.3 of the project proposal.

- (1) Total amount of consultancy: \$ 25,900
- (2) Total Fees: [\$ 650/day] x [25 days] days = \$ 16,250
- (3) Expenses: \$ 9,650 for travel costs, detailed as follows:

Purpose: Field assessment

Origin - Destination	# of trips	Cost of Air Tickets	Total Airfare (A)	# of Days	Per Diem (lodging/ meals & incidentals)	Total Per Diem (B)	Grand Total (A + B)
US - Nepal	1	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	25	\$ 250	\$ 6,250	\$ 9,250
Kathmandu - Bharatpur	2	\$ 200	\$ 400	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 400
Total			\$ 2,850			\$ 6,250	\$ 9,650

The project management component plans an annual financial audit of the project:

F. Annual Financial Audit

- (1) Total amount of consultancy: \$ 10,140
- (2) Total Fees: [\$ 150/day] x [12 days] x 3 audits = \$ 5,400
- (3) Expenses: \$ 4,740 for travel costs, detailed as follows:

Purpose: Field assessment

Origin - Destination	# of trips	Cost of Air Tickets	Total Airfare (A)	# of Days	Per Diem (lodging/ meals & incidentals)	Total Per Diem (B)	Other (Vehicle Rental \$ 146/day (C))	Grand Total (A + B + C)
Kathmandu – Bharatpur (2 Person/year)	6	\$ 112	\$ 672	48	\$ 30	\$ 1,440	\$ 2,628	\$ 4,740
Total			\$ 672			\$ 1,440	\$ 2,628	\$ 4,740

6. GRANTS

A. Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD), Govt. of Nepal TOTAL: USD \$169,551

Purpose of the grant: The grant will provide support to maintain or improve agro-ecosystem flows in selected sites through sustainable agriculture and livestock management practices. Grant support includes major activities related to improved agriculture and livestock practices in selected sites, and the costs are stated based upon past experience in the field.

This grant will fund Output 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, of the project proposal.

Summary of budget items:

Travel: Field technical staff travels @ \$ 125/trip x 72 trips = \$ 9,000

Supplies= \$ 1051.00

Sub grants to user groups (@ \$2,900 /group x 45 Groups) = \$ 130,500

Workshop (Orientation & skill-based training @ \$750/event x 30 events) = \$ 22,500

Other direct costs (@ \$ 180.55/month x 36 months) = \$ 6,500

B. Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Govt. of Nepal: USD \$158,112

This grant will provide support to sustain forest ecosystem flows and services through conservation of strategic forest lands. Grant support includes major activities related to forest restoration, soil stabilization, livelihood improvement through NRM, and alternative energy technologies to curtail pressure on forests. Cost estimate is based on past experience in the field.

This grant will fund Output 1.1.4 of the project proposal.

Subtotal amount: USD 38,885

Summary of budget items:

Travel: Field technical staff travels @ \$ 125/trip x 24 trips = \$ 3,000

Supplies= \$ 885

Sub grants to user groups (@ \$ 5,000 /group x 6 Groups) = \$ 30,000

Workshop (Skill-based training) @ \$1,778/event x 2 events) = \$ 3,556

Other direct costs (@ \$ 180.55/month x 8 months) = \$ 1,444

This grant will also support Output 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3 of the project proposal.

Subtotal amount: USD 119,227

Summary of budget items:

Travel: Field technical staff travels @ \$ 125/trip x 36 trips = \$ 4,500

Sub grants to user groups (@ \$ 1,740 /group x 48 Groups) = \$ 83,520

Workshop (Skill-based training) @ \$544.83/event x 48 events) = \$ 26,152

Other direct costs (@ \$ 180.55/month x 28 months) = \$ 5,055

C. Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM), Govt. of Nepal, TOTAL: USD \$89,471

This grant will provide support to improve cross-sectoral coordination and community engagement in sustainable land management. Activities are related to improving cross-sectoral coordination amongst district line agencies, vulnerability and hazard mapping, site/district level integrated resource management plans, land use plans, capacity building at individual and institutional levels. Cost estimate are based on past experience in field.

This grant will fund Output 1.2.3, 1.2.4 of the project proposal.

Subtotal amount: USD 28,385

Summary of budget items:

Supplies= \$ 885.

Travel: Field technical staff travels @ \$ 125/trip x 16 trips = \$ 2,000.

Third party contracts = \$ 425/day x 15 days/site x 3 sites = 19,125.

Workshop/ Training (Community training @ \$ 641.35/event x 6 events) = \$ 3,848.
Other direct costs (@ \$ 180.55/month x 14 months) = \$ 2,527.

This grant will also support Output 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 of the project proposal.

Grant amount: USD 61,086

Summary of budget items:

Travel: Technical staff from ministry in field travel @ \$ 500/trip x 10 trips = \$ 5,000.
Workshop/ Consultation Meeting @ \$ 4,500/event x 8 events) = \$ 36,000.
Training to Community members @ \$ 460.40 x 35/members = \$ 16114.
Other direct costs (@ \$ 180.55/month x 22 months) = \$ 3,972

D. Support for Community Based Organizations (CBOs): This support will be provided to local CBOs to encourage awareness and mobilize to implement priority community programs in the selected project sites.

This grant will support Output 1.2.5 and 2.1.5 of the project proposal.

Total Amount of Grants amount: USD 60,000

Description	Cost in USD			
	Unit	Qty	Rate	Amount
Support for CBOs	No	40	\$ 1,515	\$ 60,600
TOTAL				\$ 60,600

7. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

A. Capacity building workshop – To build a common understanding and foster coordination among the partners at the central level.

This workshop will contribute to Output 3.1.1 of the project proposal.

- (1) Purpose of meeting/workshop: Facilitate capacity building in 9 institutions, and institute mechanisms and fora for coordinated, inter-sectoral land and resource use plans.
- (2) Number of participants: 50
- (3) Number of days: 1
- (4) Proposed location: Kathmandu
- (5) Total cost of meeting/workshop: \$2,500 x 3 events = \$ 7,500
- (6) Breakdown:
 - Meals: Meals and snacks (\$ 30/person x 50 participants x 3 Events) = \$ 4,500
 - Workshop materials: Workshop materials, bags, banners and promotional materials (\$ 20/person x 50 participants x 3 events) = \$ 3,000

B. Joint project planning and evaluation –

This workshop will contribute to Output 4.1.1 of the project proposal.(1) Purpose of meeting/workshop: Joint planning and review will enhance synergy and provide an enabling environment for planning and field implementation.

(2) Number of participants: 40

(3) Number of days: 1

(4) Proposed location: Kathmandu

(5) Total cost of meeting/workshop: \$1,750 x 3 events = \$ 5,250

(6) Breakdown:

- Meals: Meals and snacks (\$ 40/person x 35 participants x 3 Events) = \$ 4,200
- Workshop materials: Workshop materials and hands out (\$ 10/person x 35 participants x 3 events) = \$ 1,050

C. Knowledge Sharing Workshop

This workshop will contribute to Output 1.2.6 of the project proposal.

(1) Purpose of meeting/workshop: Build capacity within the local communities and government extension services to implement and sustain these practices, monitor the outcomes, and enhance knowledge transfer for decision support.

(2) Number of participants: 40

(3) Number of days: 1

(4) Proposed location: Field Project sites

(5) Total cost of meeting/workshop: \$1,500 x 3 events = \$ 4,500

(6) Breakdown:

- Meals: Meals and snacks (\$ 27.50/person x 40 participants x 3 Events) = \$ 3,300
- Workshop materials: Handout/brochure (\$ 5/person x 40 participants x 3 events) = \$ 600
- Other/Participants' local travel: (\$ 5/person x 40 participants x 3 events) = \$ 600

D. GEF Project Inception Meeting

(1) Purpose of meeting/workshop: Program launch meeting with key partners and stakeholders.

(2) Number of participants: 45

(3) Number of days: 1

(4) Proposed location: Kathmandu

(5) Total cost of meeting/workshop: \$1,350 x 2 events = \$ 2,700

(6) Breakdown:

- Meals: Meals and snacks (\$ 20/person x 45 participants x 2 Events) = \$ 1,800
- Workshop materials: Workshop materials, bags, banners and promotional materials (\$ 10/person x 45 participants x 2 events) = \$ 900

E. GEF Project Wrap-up Meeting

(1) Purpose of meeting/workshop: Program closure workshop with key partners and stakeholders.

(2) Number of participants: 45

(3) Number of days: 1

(4) Proposed location: Kathmandu

(5) Total cost of meeting/workshop: \$1,350 x 2 events = \$ 2,700

(6) Breakdown:

- Meals: Meals and snacks (\$ 20/person x 45 participants x 2 Events) = \$ 1,800
- Workshop materials: Workshop materials, bags, banners and promotional materials (\$ 10/person x 45 participants x 2 events) = \$ 900

F. Field Partners Coordination Meeting - will enhance field level coordination and partnership through exchange of learning and sharing among the district level partners and community organizations.

These workshops will contribute to Output 3.1.1 of the project proposal.

(1) Purpose of meeting/workshop: Facilitate capacity building in 9 institutions, and institute mechanisms and fora for coordinated, inter-sectoral land and resource use plans.

(2) Number of participants: 50

(3) Number of days: 1

(4) Proposed location: Field Project sites

(5) Total cost of meeting/workshop: \$1,500 x 3 events = \$ 4,500

(6) Breakdown:

- Meals: Meals and snacks (\$ 20/person x 50 participants x 3 Events) = \$ 3,000
- Workshop materials: Handout/brochure (\$ 5/person x 50 participants x 3 events) = \$ 750
- Other/Participants' local travel: (\$ 5/person x 50 participants x 3 events) = \$ 750

8. OTHER DIRECT COSTS (costs for publications and supplies are shown below): The estimated costs are based on historical data over the past 12 months.

These publications will contribute to the Output 3.1.5 of the project proposal.

Detail of Publications	# Units	Unit Cost	Estimated Total Costs	Description of Expenses
Publication - IEC Materials	3000	\$ 2	\$ 6,000	Cost includes layout, design and printing

Additional Other Direct Costs

Detail/Description of Expenses	# Units	Unit Cost	Estimated Total Costs	Purpose	Basis for Cost Estimate
GPS and camera set	4	\$ 815	\$ 3,260	To be used by four of the five Churia project staff	based on historical data over last 12 months
Laptop Computer	4	\$ 1,650	\$6,600	To be used by four of the five Churia new hire staff	based on historical data over last 12 months
Motorbike	3	\$3,197	\$9,591	Transport for Technical and M&E Leads	based on historical data over last 12 months
Desktop Computer	1	\$ 885	\$ 885	Use by the M&E Lead	based on historical data over last 12 months
Printer	1	\$ 500	\$ 500	To be used by Churia project staff	based on historical data

					over last 12 months
Fax/scanner	1	\$ 231	\$ 231	To be used by Churia project staff	based on historical data over last 12 months
Photocopier	1	\$ 750	\$ 750	To be used by Churia project staff	based on historical data over last 12 months
LCD Projector	1	\$ 900	\$ 900	To be used by Churia project staff	based on historical data over last 12 months
Telephone set	5	\$ 40	\$ 200	To be used by Churia office five staff.	based on historical data over last 12 months
Furniture & Fixtures	5	\$ 650	\$ 3,250	To be used by Churia project staff	based on historical data over last 12 months
Stationary & Supplies (monthly est.)	36 mos.	\$ 100	\$ 3,600	To be used by Churia project staff	historical data over last 12 months
Field Running Costs	36 mos.	\$ 175	\$ 6,300	Project office fuel, insurance, maintenance & taxes	historical data over last 12 months
Field gear	6	\$ 75	\$ 450	Sleeping bags, compass, etc. used by project staff when in the field.	historical data over last 12 months
Total			\$42,517		

PROCUREMENT PLAN

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF PROCUREMENT	TYPE OF PROCUREMENT (equipment/ consultant)	Consultant Daily Rate	Consultant Number of Workdays	AMOUNT
Agro ecosystem services	Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	Consultant	\$ 115	30	\$ 3,450
Forestry ecosystem services	Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	Consultant	\$ 115	30	\$ 3,450
Capacity Building and Coordination	IEC materials development (Community awareness)	Consultant	\$ 115	30	\$ 3,450

Monitoring & Evaluation	Baseline Assessment	Consultant	\$ 650	20	\$ 13,000
Monitoring & Evaluation	GIS Mapping	Consultant	\$ 115	32	\$ 3,680
Monitoring & Evaluation	Project Final Evaluation	Consultant	\$ 650	25	\$ 16,250
Project Management	Annual Financial Audits	Consultant	\$ 150	36	\$ 5,400

Note: No equipment (any item over \$5,000) to be purchased for this project.

6.3. Project Co-financing

The project will be supported by US\$4,398,864 in co-financing. The majority of the co-financing (US\$3,550,000) will come as support from the three ministries participating in this project, including the Ministry of Agriculture Development, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, and the Ministry of Land Reform and Management (Table 4). The government co-financing will come as in-kind and cash support for project activities, project monitoring, and project management, and builds off three ongoing programs – President Churia Conservation Programme, Leasehold Forestry Program and Formulation, and Implementation of the National Land Use Plan. WWF Nepal will also be providing US\$450,000 of cash co-financing support for project activities, project monitoring, and project management, building off the baseline activities of the Terai Arc Landscape Program. Co-financing commitment letters are located in Appendix 16.

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation	Cash	1,346,766
National Government	Ministry of Land Reform and Management	Cash	758,416
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture Development	Cash	1,444,818
Others	WWF-Nepal	Cash	450,000
GEF Agency	WWF-US	Cash	398,864
Total Cofinancing			4,398,864

Table 4: Sources of Co-financing in USD

CHURIA MAP OF NEPAL

Legend:

- International Boundary
- District Boundary
- Churia
- Protected Area

Scale: 0 70 140 280 Kilometers

Protected Areas:

- Shuklaphanta WR
- Bardia NP
- Banke NP
- Chitwan NP
- Parsa WR
- Koshi Tapu WR

WWF/HARIYO BAN

PRESIDENT CHURIA PROGRAMME

67

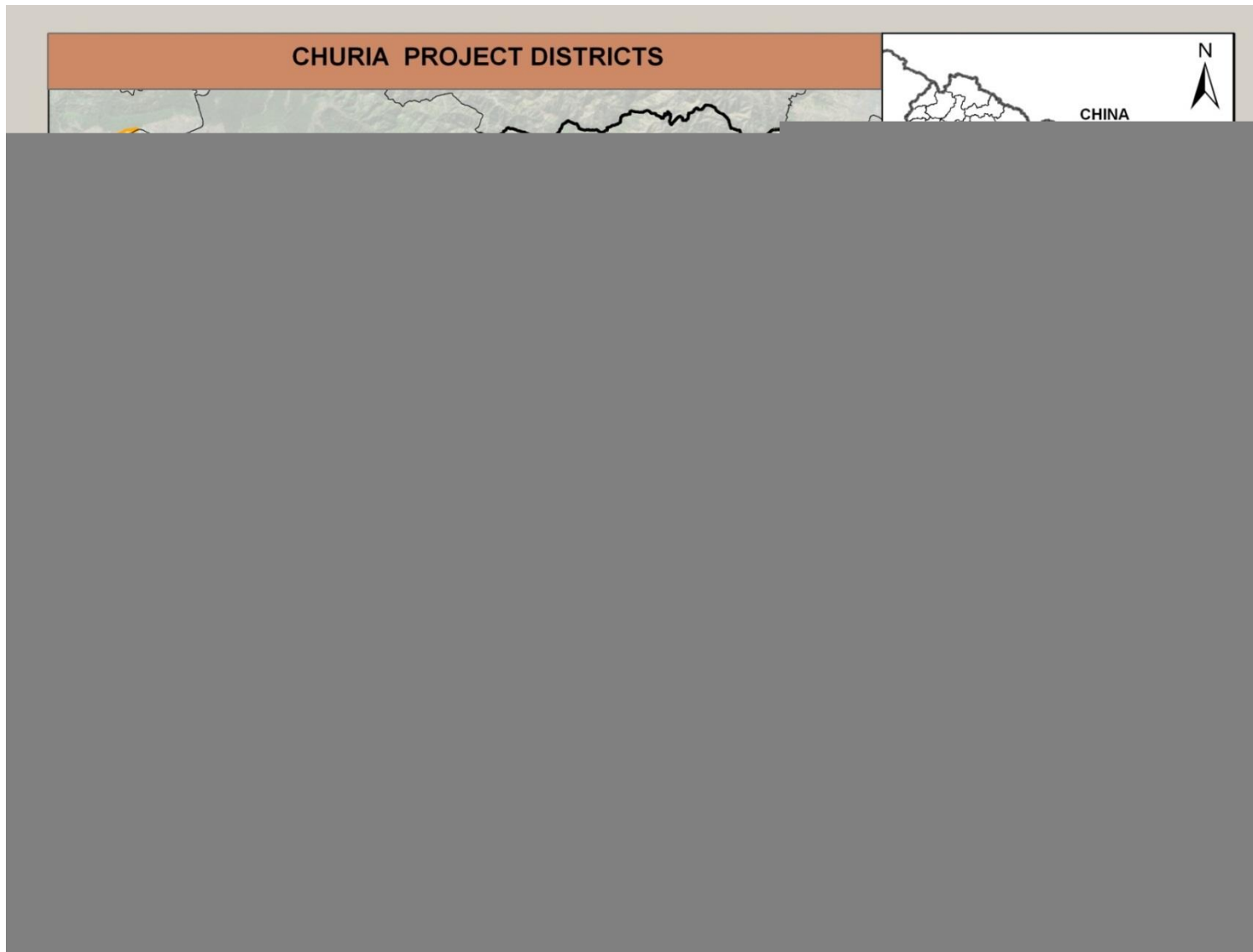


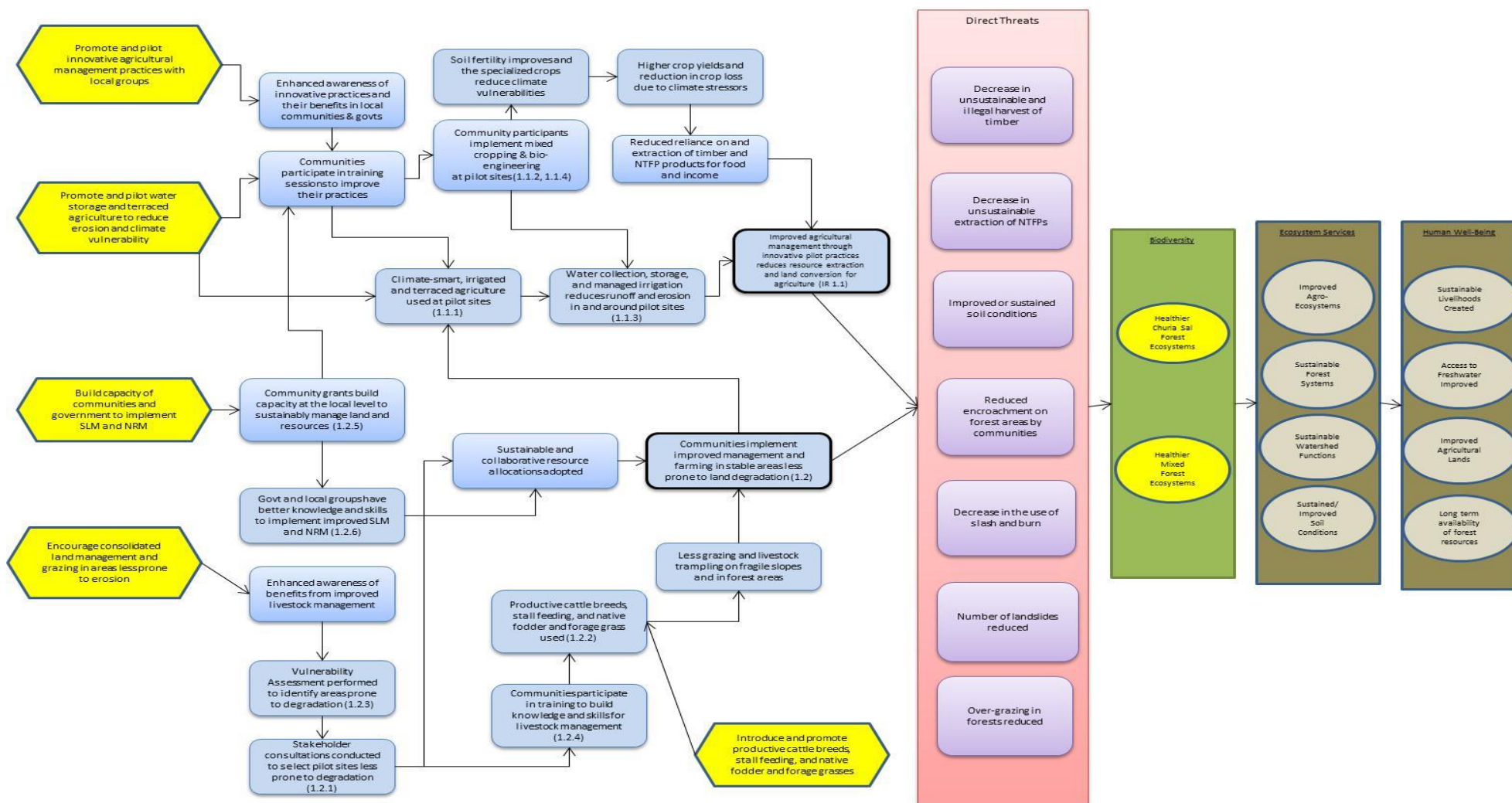
Figure 2: Location of four pilot Churia Range districts identified by the project.

APPENDIX 2: THREATS RANKING

	DIRECT THREAT	SCOPE	SEVERITY	IRREVERSIBILITY	TOTAL	CLASSIFICATION
Churia Sal Forest Ecosystems						
	Unsustainable and illegal harvest of timber	3	2	2	12	Medium
	Encroachment on forest areas by communities	2	2	2	10	Medium
	Decreased soil fertility	2	2	2	10	Medium
	Unsustainable extraction of NTFPs	1	1	2	6	Low
	Intensified and unsustainable use of traditional agriculture practices	3	3	2	14	High
	Over-grazing in forests	1	1	1	5	Low
	Landslides	3	2	3	13	High
	Total	15	13	14		
Mixed Forest Ecosystems						
	Unsustainable and illegal harvest of timber	3	2	2	12	Medium
	Encroachment on forest areas by communities	2	2	2	10	Medium
	Decreased soil fertility	2	2	2	10	Medium
	Unsustainable extraction of NTFPs	2	2	2	10	Medium
	Intensified and unsustainable use of traditional agriculture practices	3	3	2	14	High
	Over-grazing in forests	1	1	1	5	Low
	Landslides	3	2	3	13	High
	Total	16	14	14		

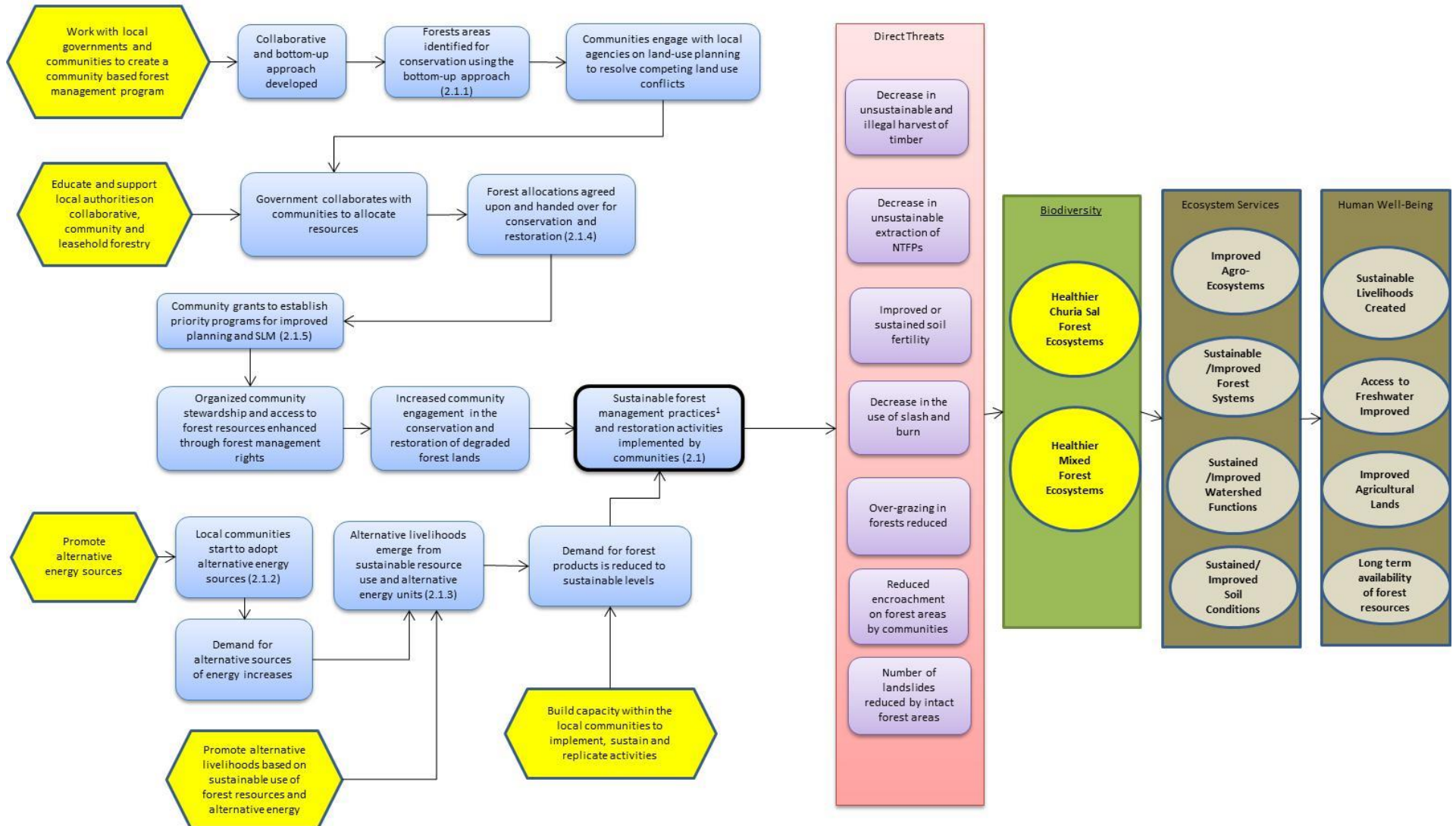
APPENDIX 3: RESULTS CHAIN

Project Component 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services

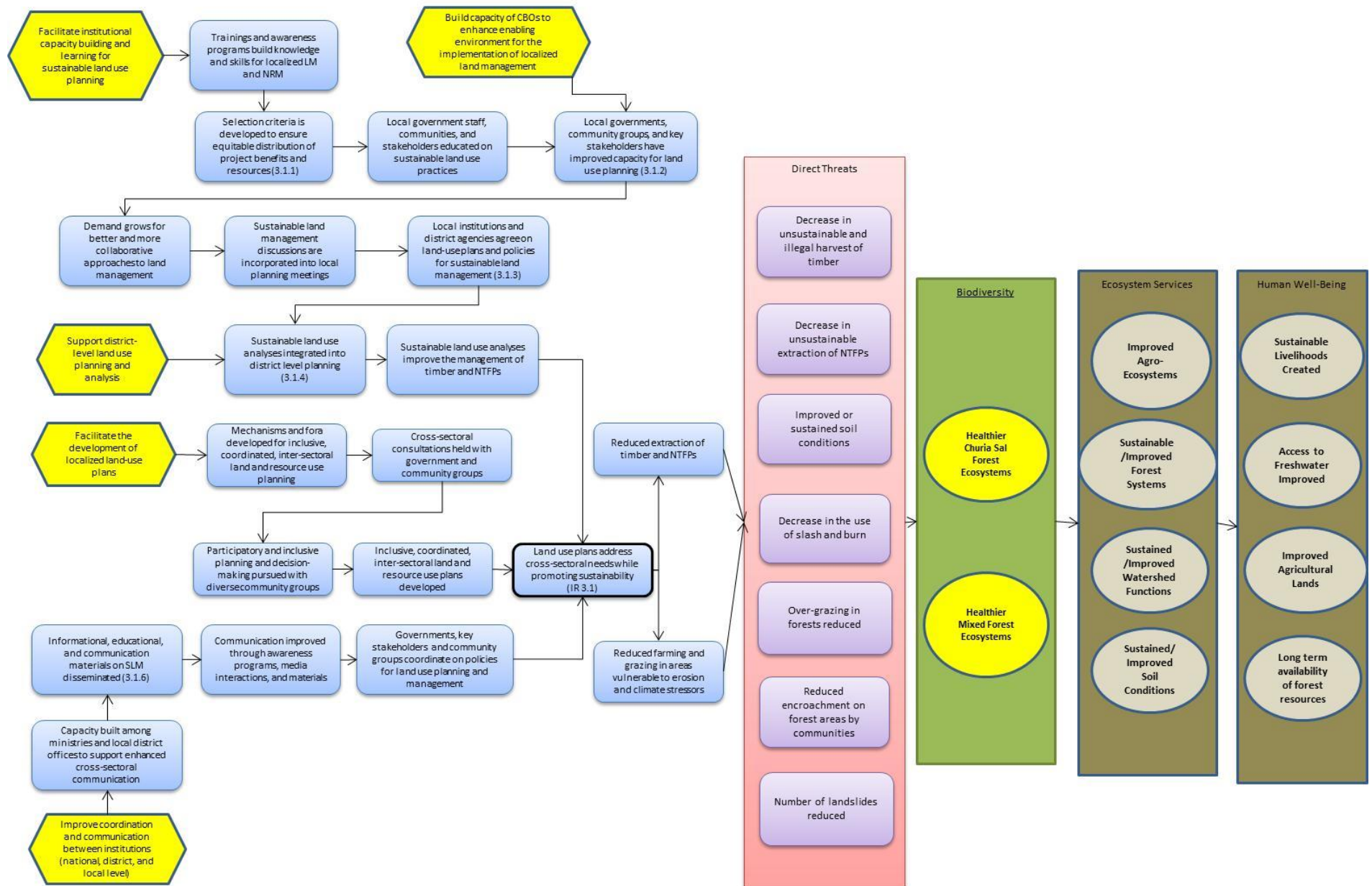


5/31/2013

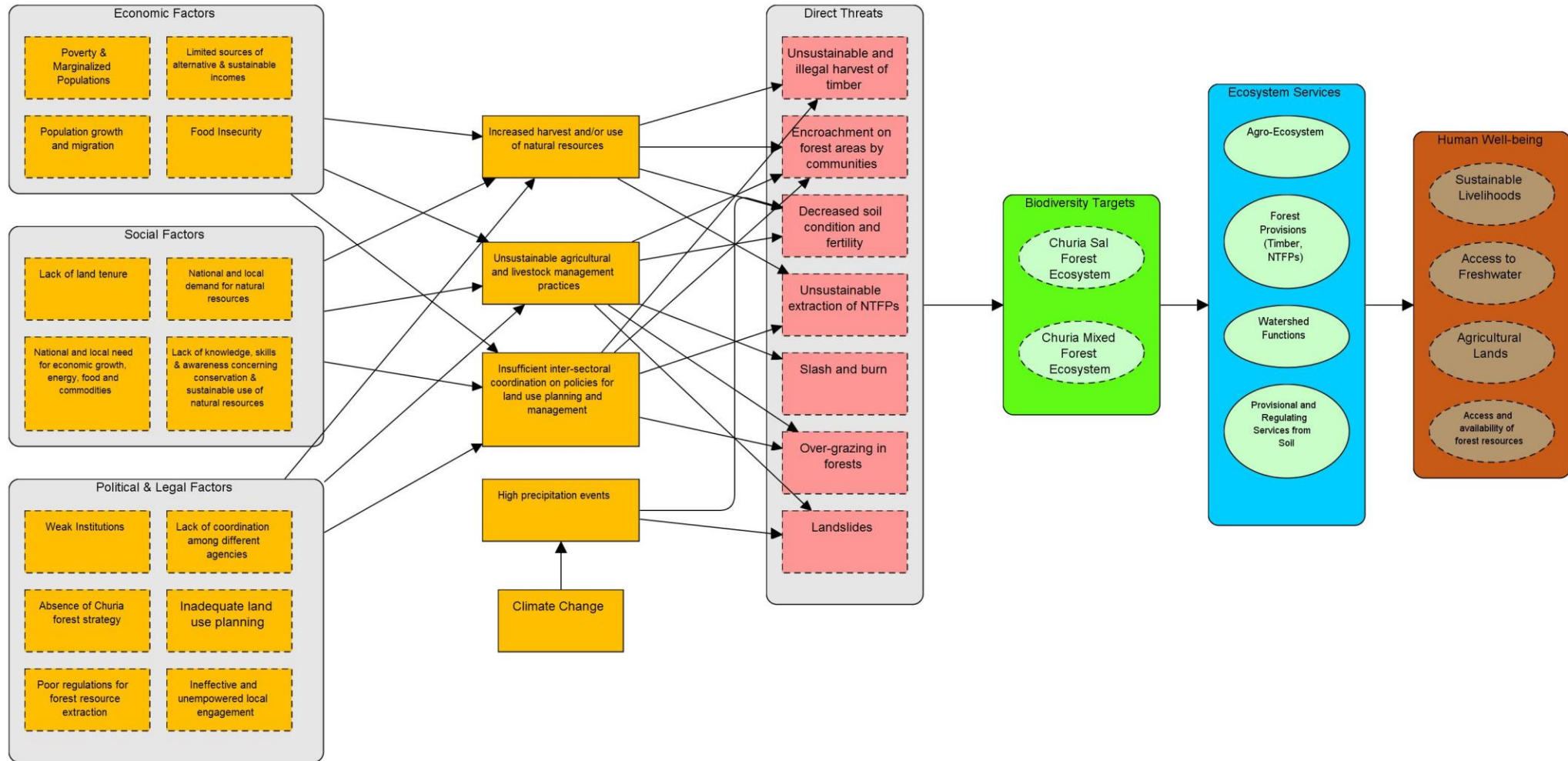
Project Component 2: Integrated landscape management in forested areas



Project Component 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement



APPENDIX 4: CONCEPTUAL MODEL



APPENDIX 5: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

Project Title	Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal
Vision Statement	A Churia range with integrated, sustainable land management and functional ecosystem services that sustain its natural and human communities.

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
Objective: By 2017, to substantially reduce degradation and maintain or improve conditions in at least 2,500 ha of agro-pastoral lands and 5,000 ha of Churia sal and mixed forest areas in strategic project locations throughout the four pilot Churia Range districts.	<p>Number of hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land showing maintained or improved soil conditions or vegetative cover in project sites in the four (4) focal districts during the project period.</p> <p>Number of hectares (ha) of forested area in which communities are utilizing integrated landscape management practices</p>		<p>The metrics to determine maintained or improved soil conditions will be developed in cooperation with the MoFSC. Soil quality and condition metrics will be applied to the monitoring plan if feasible within the project timeframe and budget.</p> <p>Community management plans, maps, and commitments</p>	Integrated land management plans and practices should lead to more sustainable agricultural and forest management practices. This improvement to the manner in which resources are used should reduce or eliminate destructive practices like encroachment, intensified and unsustainable use of traditional agriculture practices, and over-grazing.
Project Component 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services		2,500 hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land	<p>The metrics to determine maintained or improved soil conditions will be developed in cooperation with the MoFSC. Soil quality and condition metrics will be applied to the monitoring plan if feasible within the project timeframe and budget.</p> <p>Maintained or improved vegetative cover will serve as a proxy indicator for agro-ecosystem services and will be verified through a combination of project site visits, photography, and GIS.</p>	<p>The strategies tied to component one (1) assume that the markets driving the agricultural and livestock sectors remain constant during the project period.</p> <p>These strategies assume local communities are receptive to the ideas of scientific land management.</p> <p>Sustainable agricultural and livestock practices implemented in the project sites will lead to less soil compaction and erosion. The assumed results is that soil fertility and general surface conditions will</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
				be maintained or improved over the three year project period substantially reducing the land degradation in those areas.
Outcome 1.1 - Improved agricultural management through innovative pilot practices introduced at the field level that reduce erosion and climate vulnerability across 1,000 hectares (ha)	<p>Number of hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land with innovative agricultural and water management practices implemented during the project period</p> <p>Number of hectares (ha) of degraded land with bio-engineering introduced to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and restore productivity during the project period</p> <p>Number of hectares (ha) of land under improved management through project assistance that have female ownership or co-ownership</p>	<p>600 hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land under improved agricultural and water management practices</p> <p>400 hectares (ha) of degraded land with bio-engineering</p>	<p>Field surveys collected through site visits to each relevant project area. Surveys and data collected in the field will be entered into the monitoring system for tracking, analysis, and reporting.</p> <p>Innovative agricultural and water management practices may include, but are not limited to climate-adaptive strategies, mixed cropping, and water storage points for terraced agriculture irrigation.</p> <p>Criteria for site selection and groups to receive support and benefits from the project will be developed under Component 3.</p>	<p>This strategy assumes local communities are receptive to the ideas of scientific land management and the political climate remains fairly stable during the project period.</p> <p>The strategy assumes that women and other marginalized groups have interest in participation and will not encounter hardships from participating in the project.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
Output 1.1.1 - Innovative climate-smart, irrigated, terraced agriculture (SALT technology) implemented in at least 200 hectares (ha) of agricultural land within the 4 Churia districts to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability on steep slopes				
Output 1.1.2 - Mixed-cropping implemented in at least 200 hectares (ha) of agricultural land within the 4 districts to increase soil fertility and reduce climate vulnerability				
Output 1.1.3 - Water collection and storage, from uphill sources and rainwater, introduced at 20 storage points across at least 200 hectares (ha) within the 4 districts for controlled irrigation of terraced agricultural fields on sloping lands to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability				
Output 1.1.4 - Bio-engineering introduced in at least 6 sites across 400 hectares (ha) in 3 districts to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and restore productivity in heavily degraded areas				

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 1.2 - Improved land management across 1,500 hectares (ha) through an enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector	<p>Number of hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land with improved practices including sustainable grazing, stall feeding, and use of native fodder and forage grasses</p> <p>Number of community user groups practicing improved, innovative land management</p> <p>Number of community user groups incorporating new gender and social inclusion into their land management practices within the project period</p>	<p>1,500 hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land with sustainable grazing, stall feeding, and use of native fodder and forage grasses</p> <p>Improved, innovative land management practices adopted by 30 community user groups</p> <p>Gender and social inclusion practices adopted by 30 community user groups</p>	<p>Consultations and trainings will be documented using backup documentation from meetings, workshops, local travel, sign-in sheets, surveys, photographs, training materials, agendas and other source documentation.</p> <p>Innovative practices at project sites will be verified through site visits, in-person survey data, and photographs where feasible.</p> <p>Vulnerability assessments will be collected and submitted to the project monitoring system for verification.</p> <p>Criteria for the selection of households and groups to receive support and benefits from the project will be developed under Component 3.</p>	This strategy assumes local communities are receptive to the climate-adaptive strategies and the socio-political climate remains fairly stable during the project period.
Output 1.2.1 - Twelve (12) stakeholder consultations held in the four (4) districts to identify and designate grazing pastures in areas less prone to erosion				
Output 1.2.2 - Productive cattle breeds introduced, stall feeding implemented, and native fodder and forage grass promoted in at least 6 sites across 1,500 hectares (ha) in 3 districts				

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
Output 1.2.3 - Vulnerability, risk assessment, and hazard mapping conducted in the 4 districts to identify areas susceptible to natural disasters (eg. landslides, floods)				
Output 1.2.4 - Convene at least 20 community training events to encourage consolidated land management to prevent land fragmentation and encourage efficient and productive agricultural practices				
Output 1.2.5 - At least 15 community grants awarded in the 4 districts to promote priority community programs for improved land management within the agricultural sector				
Output 1.2.6 - Build capacity within the local communities and government extension services to implement and sustain these practices, monitor the outcomes, and enhance knowledge transfer for decision support				
Project Component 2: Integrated landscape management in forested areas	<p>Number of hectares (ha) of forested area in which communities are utilizing integrated landscape management practices</p> <p>Number of inclusive community user groups operating in the project areas with improved capacity to understand and implement sustainable forest management practices supported or enhanced during the project period</p>	<p>5,000 hectares (ha) with integrated landscape management practices</p> <p>30 inclusive community user groups with improved capacity to implement sustainable forest management</p>	<p>Community management plans, maps, and commitments</p> <p>Innovative practices at project sites will be verified through site visits, in-person survey data, and photographs where feasible.</p> <p>Alternative livelihood opportunities will be documented using backup documentation from</p>	<p>The integrated management practices are not upset by severe climate related disasters or socio-political unrest.</p> <p>Communities and local governments are receptive of the creation and adoption of sustainable forest management practices.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
	Number of households at the project sites with new or increased income that result from alternative livelihood opportunities introduced during the project period	practices 600 households with new or increased income as a result of alternative livelihood opportunities	meetings, workshops, local travel, sign-in sheets, surveys, photographs, training materials, agendas and other source documentation. Criteria for the selection of households and groups to receive support and benefits from the project will be developed under Component 3.	
Outcome 2.1 - Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities in 5,000 hectares (ha) of forested areas within the four pilot Churia Range districts	<p>Number of hectares (ha) of forested area in which communities are utilizing integrated landscape management practices</p> <p>Number of community user groups operating in the project areas with improved capacity to understand and implement sustainable forest management practices supported or enhanced during the project period</p> <p>Number of households at the project sites with new or increased income that result from alternative livelihood opportunities introduced during the project period</p>	<p>5,000 hectares (ha) with integrated landscape management practices</p> <p>30 community user groups with improved capacity to implement sustainable forest management practices</p> <p>600 households with new or increased income as a result of alternative livelihood opportunities</p>	<p>Community management plans, maps, and commitments</p> <p>Innovative practices at project sites will be verified through site visits, in-person survey data, and photographs where feasible.</p> <p>Alternative livelihood opportunities will be documented using backup documentation from meetings, workshops, local travel, sign-in sheets, surveys, photographs, training materials, agendas and other source documentation.</p>	<p>The integrated management practices are not upset by severe climate related disasters or socio-political unrest.</p> <p>Communities and local governments are receptive of the creation and adoption of sustainable forest management practices.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
Output 2.1.1 - Forest areas in strategic locations (steep slopes, large patches, priority sub-watersheds, water sources, high biodiversity areas, wildlife corridors) are identified, conserved, managed, and restored in at least 40 forested sites across 5,000 hectares (ha) in the 4 project districts				
Output 2.1.2 - At least 70 alternative energy source units (biogas, solar, or improved cooking stoves) are distributed in the 4 Churia Range districts to reduce demand for firewood				
Output 2.1.3 - Alternative livelihood opportunities of at least 600 households in the 4 districts are supported with the promotion of alternative livelihoods based on sustainable use of forest-based resources				
Output 2.1.4 - At least 2 workshops held to disseminate and support local authorities in policy implementation related to community, collaborative and leasehold forestry programs to enhance the engagement of communities in restoration of degraded forest lands				
Output 2.1.5 - At least 20 community grants awarded in the 4 districts to establish priority community programs for improved land management within the forestry sector				

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
Component 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement	<p>Number of institutions with improved capacity and mechanisms for coordinated land use planning</p> <p>Number of community user group members trained in integrated landscape management</p> <p>Number of land-use policies/plans developed for sustainable land management</p>	<p>9 institutions have improved capacity and mechanisms in place for coordinated land use planning</p> <p>30 community user group members trained in sustainable land and resource management (focus on inclusion for women, the poor, indigenous people, and other marginalized groups)</p> <p>4 localized land-use policies/plans that incorporate protections for women, the poor, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups</p>	<p>Documentation of coordination foras and communication mechanisms developed through project implementation where CBOs, district and national level agencies engaged</p> <p>Land management training records collected throughout project implementation</p> <p>Copies of drafted and adopted community plans, policies and amendment records that were supported and proposed as part of project implementation</p>	<p>The project will be able to effectively engage each of the relevant sectors and coordinate land use and sustainable land management.</p> <p>Local communities are receptive of coordinated inter-sectoral land and resource use plans.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 3.1 - Enhanced cross-sectoral enabling environment for integrated landscape management and participatory decision-making	<p>Number of institutions with improved capacity and mechanisms for coordinated land use planning</p> <p>Number of community user group members trained in integrated landscape management (men/women)</p> <p>Number of land-use policies/plans developed for sustainable land management</p>	<p>9 institutions have improved capacity and mechanisms in place for coordinated land use planning</p> <p>30 community user group members trained in sustainable land and resource management (focus on inclusion for women, the poor, indigenous people, and other marginalized groups)</p> <p>4 localized land-use policies/plans that incorporate protections for women, the poor, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups</p>	<p>Documentation of coordination foras and communication mechanisms developed through project implementation where CBOs, district and national level agencies engaged</p> <p>Land management training records collected throughout project implementation</p> <p>Copies of drafted and adopted community plans, policies and amendment records that were supported and proposed as part of project implementation</p> <p>Participant data from sign-in sheets, photographs, and meeting notes will be disaggregated by gender, group affiliations, and IP</p>	<p>The project will be able to effectively engage each of the relevant sectors and coordinate land use and sustainable land management.</p> <p>Local communities are receptive of coordinated inter-sectoral land and resource use plans.</p> <p>Consultations will include diverse participation from communities, indigenous groups, sector leaders, and government agents to determine the final location of sites.</p>
Output 3.1.1 - Selection criteria is developed in a participatory manner to determine final project sites, recipients of training, criterion for issuing grants, and recipients of project benefits such as biogas				
Output 3.1.2 - Capacity is built in 9 institutions and mechanisms and fora are instituted among local governments and diverse local				

Intervention Logic	Indicators		Means of Verification	Assumptions
community groups for inclusive, coordinated, inter-sectoral land and resource use plans				
Output 3.1.3 - At least 30 CBO representatives are capacitated through integrated landscape management job training and internships to enhance the enabling environment for land conservation in the Churia Range				
Output 3.1.4 - District-level land use planning and analyses that identify important and sensitive areas for restoration and conservation management are completed and integrated into district land-use plans in the 4 project districts				
Output 3.1.5 - Localized land-use policies/plans for sustainable land management in the 4 districts developed by the Government of Nepal in consultation with local government and local community groups, and project leadership structures, contact information and formal agency grievance mechanisms are established and shared				
Output 3.1.6 - Informational, educational, and communication materials on sustainable land management disseminated in at least 24 awareness programs and media interactions in the 4 districts				

APPENDIX 6: FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The project area in the Churia foot hills is part of a large, 2.2 Million Hectare landscape called Terai Arc. The Churia hills form a northern boundary and important source of water flowing south into the lower levels of the Terai. In 2005, WWF completed a comprehensive 10-year financial assessment of the full Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) that includes the Churia foot hills and the project area and specific activities that fall under this proposal. This comprehensive financing assessment is based on a very detailed conservation plan for the TAL that is sanctioned by the Nepal government and includes 5 key strategies and over 60 specific areas of activity arrayed under these strategies. The total cost of all TAL conservation including the Churia foot hills from the assessment is \$25.68 million for 10 years (at an average of \$2.5 million per year). The funding required for this project will be used to fund important activities in the project areas to replant and protect forests and to protect and conserve water in the Churia hills. All of these activities, and their associated costs, are part of the TAL strategic plan and represented in the full TAL comprehensive financial assessment.

APPENDIX 7: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

This Medium Size Project's is requesting US\$ 1 million from the GEF Trust Fund. The project's intended duration is three years and has focused interventions in four districts within Nepal's Churia Range. Given this limited size and scope, and focused on-the-ground interventions, a full economic analysis was not considered necessary during the project design.

APPENDIX 8: ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

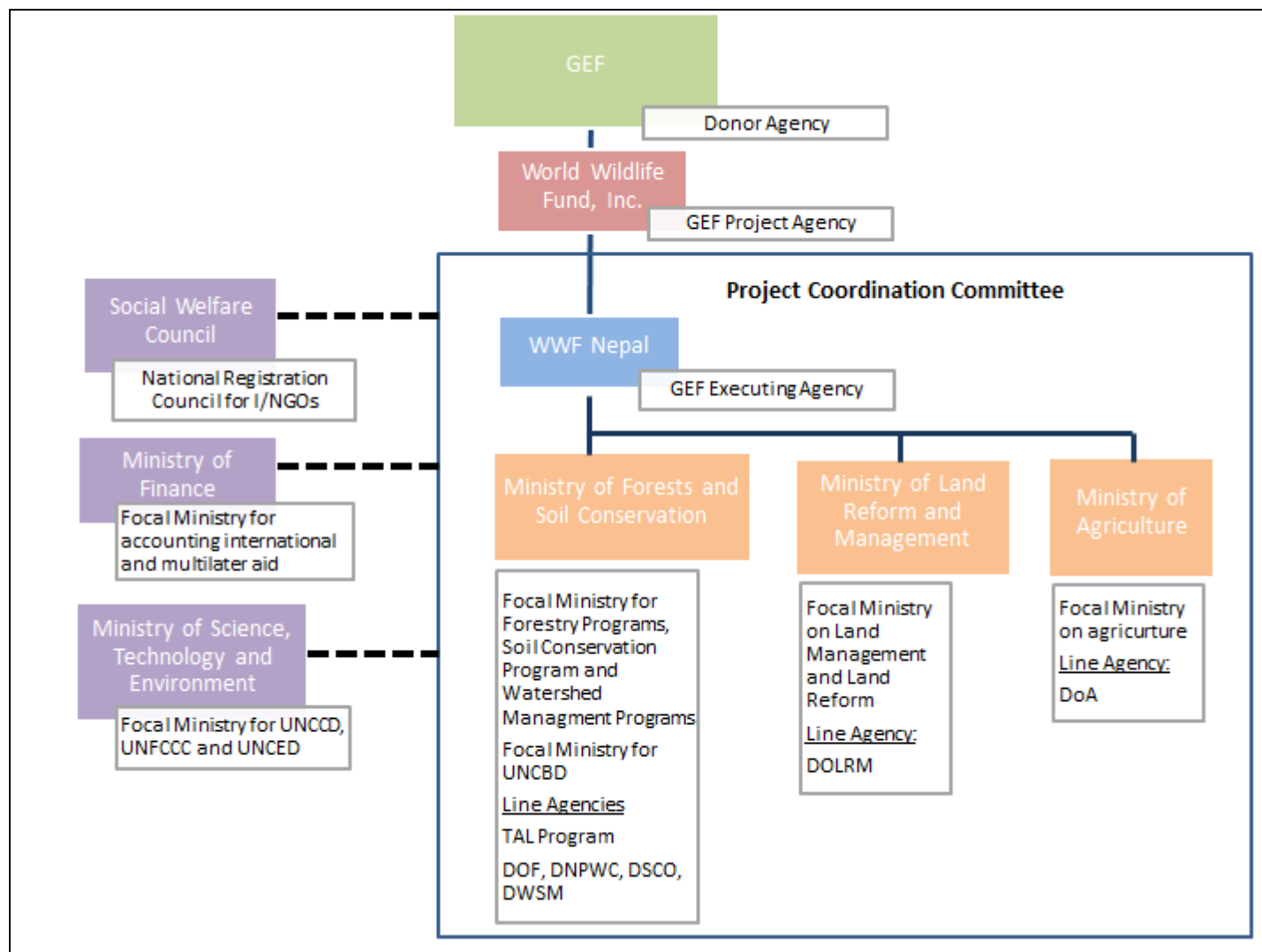


Figure 1: Project Organizational Chart

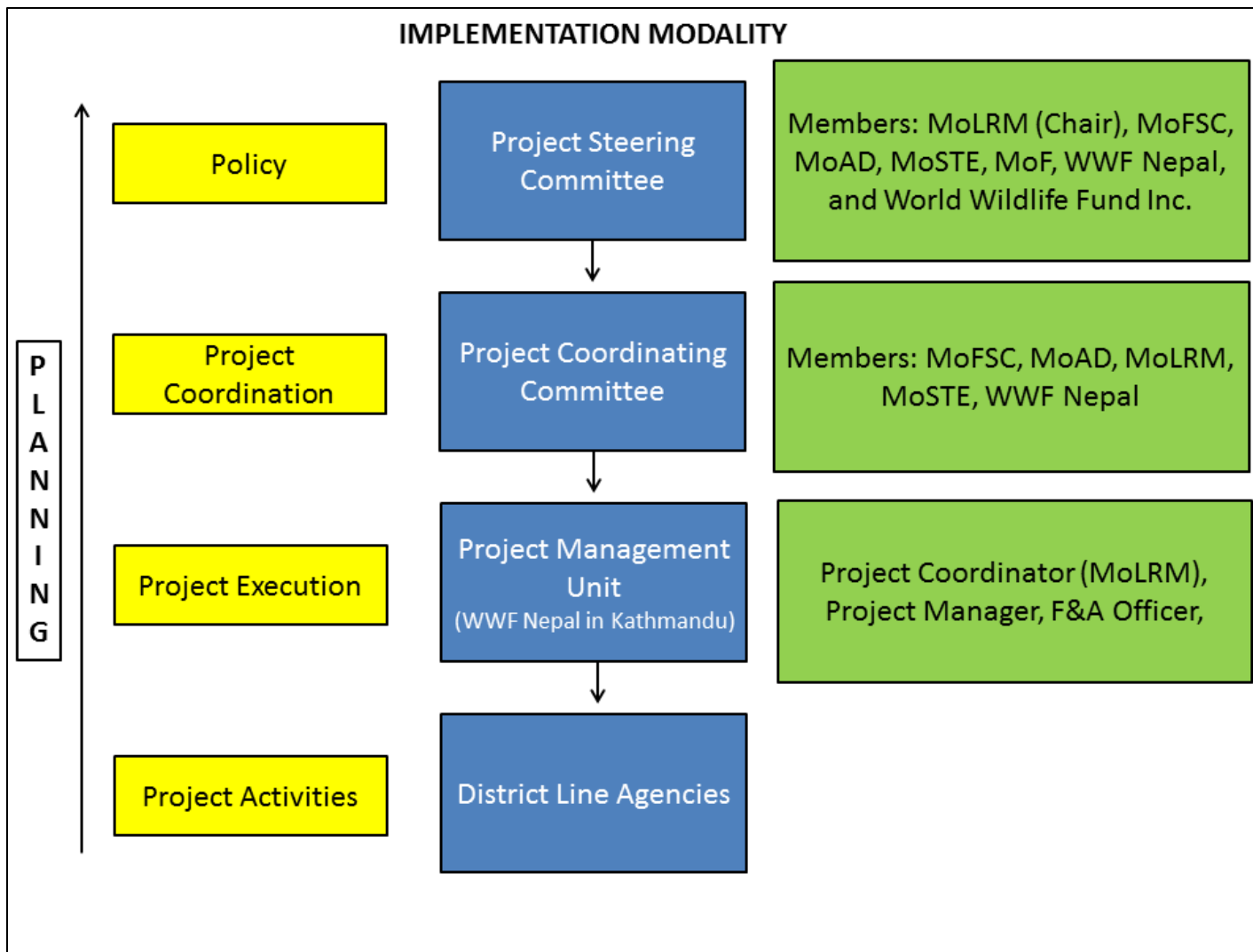


Figure 2: Project Implementation Modality

APPENDIX 9: WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE

The project workplan and schedule will be completed as part of the project inception workshop as indicated in *Appendix 14: Project Budget by Component*.

APPENDIX 10: TERMINAL EVALUATION TOR

GEF FUNDED PROJECTS

PROJECT DATA		
Project/Program Title	Sustainable Land Management in the Churia, Nepal	
GEF Project ID		
WWF (Agency) Project ID		
GEF Agency(s)	WWF GEF Project Agency	
Implementing Office	WWF Nepal	
Partner(s)		
Countries	Nepal	
RELEVANT DATES		
CEO Endorsement/Approval		
Agency Approval Date		
Implementation Start		
Midterm Evaluation (if applicable)	N/A	
Project Completion		
Terminal Evaluation Completion		
Project Closing		
PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION		
Office	Name (Last, First)	Email / Phone
Executing Agency	Nepal, Santosh	Santosh.Nepal@wwfnepal.org
GEF Project Agency (World Wildlife Fund Inc.)	Lefeuvre, Hervé	Herve.LeFeuvre@wwfus.org
Government Contact		
Partner Contact		
Other	Morrison, John	John.Morrison@wwfus.org

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF) policies and procedures for all GEF financed full and medium-sized projects require a terminal evaluation (TE) upon completion of project implementation. The following terms of reference (TOR) set out the expectations for the TE for the project “Sustainable Land Management in the Churia, Nepal”, hereafter referred to as the “Project”. The technical consultant selected to conduct this evaluation will be referred to as “evaluator(s)” throughout this TOR.

The Project seeks to substantially reduce land degradation from human activities in the Churia Range and to reduce vulnerability to climate change through improved land and forest management and sustainable practices. Project activities were designed to develop, support and promote innovative best practices in agricultural and livestock sectors, advocate for and promote community based forestry management, and improve inter-sectoral collaboration and planning to sustain natural resources over a three year period. The Project was designed to mitigate land degradation in six pilot Churia Range districts by making a vital, incremental contribution to ensure that land degradation in the Churia Range range is substantially reduced by: 1) promoting sustainable agricultural and livestock management practices; 2) engaging local communities in forest conservation; and 3) creating the enabling conditions for inter-sectoral collaboration for sustainable land use and management. The TE for this project will only cover the GEF financed components outlined here.

The Project was organized into the three (3) separate components:

Component 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services

Component 2: Integrated landscape management in the wider Churia Range forested areas

Component 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement

The TE will be conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by the GEF and in the WWF Evaluation Guidelines. The objectives of the evaluation are to assess the achievement of project results, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of WWF programs.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE FOR THE EVALUATION

The TE will cover the GEF financed components and project co-financing. The TE will comply with the guidance, rules and procedures established by WWF⁴¹ and the GEF Terminal Evaluation Guidance⁴². The objectives of the evaluation are to assess the achievement of project performance, project designs and implementation, achievements of objectives and integration of approved changes during implementation, as well as any other results.

At minimum, the evaluation will address the following seven areas:

1. Project results
2. Risks to the sustainability of project outcomes
3. Relevance and catalytic role of the project
4. Monitoring & Evaluation Systems
5. Long-Term Changes
6. Processes Affecting Attainment of Project Results
7. Lessons and Recommendations

⁴¹ For additional information on evaluation methods adopted by WWF, see the [WWF Evaluation Guidelines](#), published on our [WWF Program Standards](#) public website.

⁴² For additional information on the GEF Terminal Evaluation Guidelines, see the [GEF Policies and Procedures](#), published on the [GEF Evaluation Office](#) website.

The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, minimum requirement 3, requires that terminal evaluation reports provide information on when the evaluation took place, sites visited, participants, key questions, and methodology. This required summary will be included in the evaluator(s)'s final report.

EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHOD

The WWF methodology for conducting programmatic evaluations is a key element of our adaptive management approach that reflects on conservation interventions to enhance our efficiency, progress, and impact. The evaluator(s) is expected to frame the evaluation effort using the six (6) core criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and adaptive capacity.

A set of questions covering each of the above listed areas have been drafted and are included with this TOR (Annex A). The evaluator(s) is expected to amend, complete and submit this matrix and include it as an annex to the final report. The review and acceptance of the final evaluation report, including a summary of results, are required as a contract deliverable.

The evaluation must provide evidence-based information that is useful, independent, participatory, respectful, credible, transparent, and ethical. The evaluator(s) is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, the GEF operational focal point, the implementing office, project team(s), and appointed WWF GEF Technical Advisers based in the region and key stakeholders.

The evaluator(s) will review all relevant sources of information, such as the project document, project reports – including Annual APR/PIR, project budget revisions, midterm reviews, progress reports, GEF focal area tracking tools, project files, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the evaluator(s) considers useful for this evidence-based assessment. A list of core documents that the project team will provide to the evaluator(s) is attached as part of the TOR. (Annex B)

CHOOSE ONE:

The evaluator(s) is expected to conduct a field site visit, including the following: [list project sites]. The site visit should occur on or before [MM/DD/YYYY] and be completed before [MM/DD/YYYY]. [The final report with supporting documentation is due MM/DD/YYYY].

Key external partners to be consulted are as follows: (insert list)

Evaluator(s)s will carry out the TE to ensure quality and basic principles are maintained throughout the process. Evaluations should be useful, maintain independence and impartiality, be inclusive through participatory methods, be completed in a timely manner, respectful and credible, with an emphasis on transparency and ethical conduct that is respectful of human rights, differences in culture, customs, and the practices of all stakeholders involved.

EVALUATION CRITERIA & RATINGS

The evaluator(s) will rate the all required performance criteria. A completed ratings table must be included in the evaluation executive summary. An Evaluation Ratings Summary template has been provided (Annex C) including the approved obligatory rating scales.

All areas covered in the evaluation scope will also be assessed against the six core criteria list above, with ratings assigned to specific components.

A full assessment of project performance will be conducted, based on the expectations set out in the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Matrix ([Annex D](#)), which provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with the approved means of verification. The three criteria required for assessing the level of achievement for the Project outcomes and objectives are as follows: relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency.

PROJECT FINANCE / COFINANCE

The Evaluation will assess the key financial aspects of the project, including the extent of co-financing planned and realized. The evaluator(s) will assess the appropriateness of and compliance with financial controls. Financial planning and reported should have supported informed and timely decision making for effective program management. Cash flows should have been timely and sufficient to support on-going project activities. Co-financing actuals should be reviewed against commitments. Evidence and verification of due diligence and complaint management of funds, including any financial audits should also be assessed.

Project cost and financial source data will be required, including annual expenditure reports. Variances between planned and actual expenditures will need to be assessed and explained in the evaluation report. Results from recent financial audits, as available, should be taken into consideration. The evaluator(s) will receive assistance from the Implementing Office (IO) and Program Operations team to obtain financial data in order to complete the co-financing table below, which must be included in the terminal evaluation report.

CO-FINANCING DATA							
Co-Financing Source	Type	Project Preparation		Project Implementation		Total	
		Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual
GEF Agency							
Host Government							
Other Donors							
WWF Internal Funds							
Total co-financing							
Total Project Cost							

CATALYTIC ROLE

The evaluator(s) will assess the extent to which the project is achieving impacts or progressing towards the achievement of impacts. Key findings that should be brought out in the evaluations include whether the project has demonstrated: a) verifiable improvements in ecological status, b) verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems, and/or c) demonstrated progress towards these impact achievements.⁴³

MAINSTREAMING

⁴³ An acceptable tool for gauging progress to impact is the Review of Outcomes to Impacts (ROTI) method developed by the GEF Evaluation Office. A link is provided here for reference [ROTI Handbook 2009](#).

WWF supported GEF financed projects are key components in WWF country programming, as well as regional and global strategies. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project was successfully integrated with other WWF priorities including improved governance of natural resources, climate change adaptation, and gender.

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS

The evaluation report must include a chapter providing a set of conclusions, recommendations and lessons.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation resides with the WWF's Conservation Strategies & Measures (CSM) department. The CSM will select evaluator(s) and ensure the timely reimbursement, approve travel arrangements, and responding to questions concerning the scope and requirements for the evaluation. The Project team will be responsible for liaising with the Evaluator(s) to set up stakeholder interviews, arrange field visits, coordinate with the Government etc.

EVALUATION TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the evaluation will be **[XX]** days according to the following plan:

Activity	Timing	Completion Date
Preparation	XX days (<i>recommended: 2-4</i>)	<i>date</i>
Evaluation Mission	XX days (~5-15)	<i>date</i>
Draft Evaluation Report	XX days (~5-10)	<i>date</i>
Final Report	XX days (~1-2)	<i>date</i>

EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

In addition to the deliverables outlined below, the evaluator(s) is required also to provide an 'audit trail', detailing how feedback and comments have been addressed in the final evaluation report.

The evaluator(s) is expected to deliver the following:

Deliverable	Content	Timing	Responsibilities
Inception Report	Evaluator(s) provides clarifications on timing and method	No later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission.	Evaluator(s) submits to WWF CSM
Presentation	Initial Findings	End of evaluation mission	To project management, and WWF CSM
Draft Final Report	Full report, (per annexed template) with	Within 3 weeks of the evaluation mission	Sent to CSM, reviewed by Agreement Services, WWF

	annexes		GEF Project Agency Core Team, and GEF OFPs
Final Report*	Revised report	Within 1 week of receiving WWF's comments on draft	Sent to CSM

EVALUATION TEAM COMPOSITION

The evaluation team will be composed of **[insert final detail]**. The consultant(s) shall have prior experience in evaluating similar projects. Experience with GEF financed projects is an advantage. *(If the team has more than 1 evaluator), one will be designated as the team leader and will be responsible for finalizing the report).* The evaluator(s) selected should not have participated in the project preparation and/or implementation and should not have conflict of interest with project related activities.

The Team members must present the following qualifications:

- Minimum XX years of relevant professional experience;
- Knowledge of GEF standards for evaluation;
- Previous experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies;
- Technical knowledge in the targeted GEF Operational Focal Area(s)
- *(additional skills based on project particulars)*

EVALUATOR(S) ETHICS

Evaluation consultants will be held to the highest ethical standards. Evaluations are conducted in accordance with WWF principles⁴⁴ and the terms and conditions of the consulting agreement.

PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

Payment, expense reimbursement, and other contractual terms and conditions are outlined in the consultant agreement made between WWF and the evaluator(s).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are requested to apply online **(insert site link)** by (date). Individual consultants are invited to submit applications together with their CV for these positions. Applications should contain a current and complete C.V. in English, Nepalese, and **(insert other language requirements)** with contact information. The selection of

⁴⁴ WWF maintains principles for ethical conduct and conflicts of interest that have been articulated into policies for employees. These principles for conduct and professionalism are applied to external consultants conducting evaluations.

candidates and contractual agreements will be in compliance with WWF procurement policies⁴⁵ and subject to GEF requirements.

WWF applies a fair and transparent selection process that will take into account the competencies/skills of the applicants as well as their financial proposals. Women and members of social minorities are encouraged to apply.

⁴⁵ WWF [Procurement Policy](#)

ANNEX A: EVALUATION QUESTIONS

This is a generic list, to be further detailed with more specific questions by CO and WWF GEF Technical Adviser based on the particulars of the project.

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	
Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of the GEF focal area, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?				
Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?				
Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently, in-line with international and national norms and standards?				
	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?				
	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•
Impact: Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?				
	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•

ANNEX B: LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE EVALUATOR(S)

The following project documents will be reviewed:

1. Project Document including all Annexes
2. Annual work plans
3. Annual Technical Reports
4. GEF Tracking Tools
5. Monitoring and Performance Reports
6. Source documentation for performance measures
7. Consultation documentation and stakeholder feedback
8. Workshop and Training Documents
9. *Other documents TBD*

ANNEX C: EVALUATION RATINGS SAMPLE SUMMARY TABLES

1. Assessment of Project Results & Outcomes*	Rating
Were project outcomes Relevant when compared to focal area strategies, country priorities, and WWF strategies?	
How do you rate the Effectiveness of project outcomes when compared to the original and modified project objectives? <i>If expected results are outputs/inputs only, then evaluator (s) are to assess if there were any measureable outcomes and were they realistic for the project type and scale?</i>	
How do you rate project cost Efficiency ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the project use the least cost options? If not, did they chose the most efficient cost options available? Did any delays in implementation affect cost effectiveness? Evaluators should compare costs incurred and the time taken to achieve the outcomes. 	
2. Assessment of M&E Systems	Rating
M&E Design – the M&E plans included baseline considerations, data sources, collection methodologies, SMART indicators, data collection and analysis systems, results based management cycles incorporated into plans.	
M&E Plan Implementation – verify that an M&E system and processes were in place to facilitate the implementation of the plan. Assess and rate the quality of implementation and the role monitoring played in the adaptation and implementation of project activities.	
Budgeting and Funding for M&E Activities – verify and rate the adequacy of the budget for M&E at the planning stage and the timeliness and efficiency of funding for monitoring during implementation.	

*Evaluations should consider the following issues when providing assessing performance and results: preparation and readiness, country ownership/drivenness, stakeholder involvement, financial planning, GEF Agency supervision and backstopping, co-financing, delays and affects on outcomes and sustainability. Ratings are not required for these additional considerations.

RATINGS:

- Highly satisfactory (HS) - The project had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency.
- Satisfactory (S) - The project had minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency.
- Moderately satisfactory (MS) - The project had moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency.
- Moderately unsatisfactory (MU) - The project had significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency.

- Unsatisfactory (U) - The project had major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency.
- Highly unsatisfactory (HU) - The project had severe shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency.

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ANNEX C: EVALUATION RATINGS SAMPLE SUMMARY TABLES

3. Monitoring of Long Term Changes	<i>Responses</i>
Did this project contribute to the establishment of a long-term monitoring system?	
If it did not, should the project have included such a component?	
What were the accomplishments and shortcomings in establishment of this system?	
Is the system sustainable – that is, is it embedded in a proper institutional structure and does it have financing?	
Is the information generated by this system being used as originally intended?	

4. Assessment of Outcomes and their Sustainability	Rating
Financial Risks	
Sociopolitical Risks	
Institutional Framework and Governance Risks	
Environmental Risks	

RATINGS:

Likely (L) - There are no or negligible risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.

Moderately likely (ML) - There are moderate risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.

Moderately unlikely (MU) - There are significant risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.

Unlikely (U) - There are severe risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.

Additional guidance regarding the evaluation criteria and ratings for each dimension can be found in the [GEF Terminal Evaluation Guidelines](#).

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ANNEX D: PROJECT MONITORING & EVALUTAION PLAN MATRIX

See Appendix 13 of the Project Document

ANNEX E: EVALUATION REPORT OUTLINE⁴⁶

- i.** Opening page:
 - Title of WWF supported GEF financed project
 - WWF and GEF project summary table (page 1 TOR)
 - Evaluation team members
 - Acknowledgements
- ii.** Executive Summary
 - Project Summary Table
 - Project Description (brief)
 - Evaluation Rating Table
 - Summary of conclusions, recommendations and lessons
- iii.** Acronyms and Abbreviations
- 1.** Introduction
 - Purpose of the evaluation
 - Scope & Methodology
 - Structure of the evaluation report
- 2.** Project description and development context
 - Project start and duration
 - Problems that the project sought to address
 - Immediate and development objectives of the project
 - Baseline Indicators established
 - Main stakeholders
 - Expected Results
- 3.** Findings

(In addition to a descriptive assessment, all criteria marked with (*) must be rated⁴⁷)
- 3.1** Project Design / Formulation
 - Analysis of Results Framework (Project logic /strategies/Indicators)
 - Assumptions and Risks
 - Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g., same focal area) incorporated into project design
 - Planned stakeholder participation
 - Replication approach
 - WWF comparative advantage
 - Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector
 - Management arrangements
- 3.2** Project Implementation
 - Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)
 - Partnership arrangements (with relevant stakeholders involved in the country/region)
 - Feedback from M&E activities used for adaptive management
 - Project Finance:
 - Monitoring and evaluation: design at entry and implementation (*)
 - WWF and Implementing Partner implementation / execution (*) coordination, and

⁴⁶The Report length should not exceed 50 pages in total (not including annexes).

⁴⁷ Using a six-point rating scale: 6: Highly Satisfactory, 5: Satisfactory, 4: Marginally Satisfactory, 3: Marginally Unsatisfactory, 2: Unsatisfactory and 1: Highly Unsatisfactory, see Annex C for summary format sample.

- operational issues
- 3.3** Project Results
- Overall results (attainment of objectives) (*)
 - Relevance(*)
 - Effectiveness & Efficiency (*)
 - Country ownership
 - Mainstreaming
 - Sustainability (*)
 - Impact
- 4.** Conclusions, Recommendations & Lessons
- Corrective actions for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project
 - Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project
 - Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives
 - Best and worst practices in addressing issues relating to relevance, performance and success
- 5.** Annexes
- TOR
 - Itinerary
 - List of persons interviewed
 - Summary of field visits
 - List of documents reviewed
 - Evaluation Question Matrix
 - Questionnaire used and summary of results
 - Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

EVALUATION REPORT ACCEPTANCE FORM

Evaluation Report Reviewed and Accepted by:

WWF US (GEF Project Agency)

Name: John Morrison, Director for Conservation Strategies & Measures

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: Lee Zahnow, Senior Director for Strategic Agreement Services

Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX 11: DRAFT PROCUREMENT PLAN

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF PROCUREMENT	TYPE OF PROCUREMENT (equipment/consultant)	Consultant Daily Rate	Consultant Number of Workdays	AMOUNT
Agro ecosystem services	Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	Consultant	\$ 115	30	\$ 3,450
Forestry ecosystem services	Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	Consultant	\$ 115	30	\$ 3,450
Capacity Building and Coordination	IEC materials development (Community awareness)	Consultant	\$ 115	30	\$ 3,450
Monitoring & Evaluation	Baseline Assessment	Consultant	\$ 650	20	\$ 13,000
Monitoring & Evaluation	GIS Mapping	Consultant	\$ 115	32	\$ 3,680
Monitoring & Evaluation	Project Final Evaluation	Consultant	\$ 650	25	\$ 16,250
Project Management	Annual Financial Audits	Consultant	\$ 150	36	\$ 5,400

Note: No equipment (any item over \$5,000) to be purchased for this project.

APPENDIX 12: ESI SAFEGUARDS DECISION (FINAL DECISION DISCLOSURE)

Environmental and Social Safeguards Decision Disclosure Memo

Project Title: Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

Project Location: Nepal

Project Classification: B (Partial Social Assessment)

Decision: Project Approved for Submission with Conditions

Date: July 30, 2013

Upon review, the Safeguards Team of the WWF GEF⁴⁸ Project Agency, hereafter referred to as “Agency”, has classified the above referenced project as “Category B” to recognize the potential social impacts on local human populations resulting from specific proposed project activities. The environmental benefits of the proposed activities are expected to have positive effects on the region and its biodiversity. No negative impacts on the environment are anticipated. Furthermore, the potential impacts of on-the-ground project activities (e.g., mixed crop rotations, forest restoration, water conservation and containment practices, stall-feeding) will be minor in scale and significantly outweighed by expected positive environmental benefits typical of a category “C” project and required no additional follow-up action.

An initial Safeguards screening was completed for the above referenced project. Screening responses prompted a recommendation from the Safeguards Team for a full social assessment of the potential impacts the project may have on vulnerable community stakeholders like women, the poor, indigenous people and other traditionally marginalized groups. An independent in-country consultant was engaged by the Agency to conduct the social impact assessment (SIA). A full review of the project design, project team interviews, site visits and consultations with relevant community groups and indigenous peoples were conducted through June and July of 2013. The consultations included disclosure and discussions of project designs, assessments, stakeholders, environmental and social benefits and impacts, as well as proposed mitigation plans.

The SIA and reports summarized the results of the assessments and consultations. In addition to the reports, the consultant provided recommendations for the project design. Those recommendations included the following:

1. Selection criteria to promote standardized and equitable distribution of project resources and benefits;
2. Diverse community participation in project decision-making and planning; and
3. Dissemination of a project contact and grievance information for community panels to voice concerns and facilitate complaints regarding project implementation, management, or negative impacts affecting communities.

As a result of the assessment and final recommendations, the project was given a **Conditional Approval** requiring the proposed mitigations to be incorporated into the project design prior to final Project Appraisal and submission to the GEF.

All three proposed mitigations were incorporated into the project design as part of Component 3 to enhance cross-sectoral engagement and local community engagement. In addition, tracking and monitoring of these safeguards was added to the Project Monitoring & Mitigation Plan. This decision and a summary matrix is provided in the final Program Document for submission to the GEF. Stakeholder consultation and participation will occur throughout project implementation to ensure continued collaboration with local communities and indigenous peoples affected by the project. Compliance with these recommendations will be reviewed within the first six months of the project and throughout the life of the project. As part of the project design, these required safeguard mitigations will become part of future review and evaluations to check their effectiveness in avoiding or mitigating negative social impacts.

Published Agency Disclosure Link (*including Reports*):

<http://worldwildlife.org/pages/global-environment-facility-gef-business-resources>

⁴⁸ The Global Environmental Facility

APPENDIX 13: MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN (GEF RESULTS FRAMEWORK)

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
Objective: By 2017, to substantially reduce degradation and maintain or improve conditions in at least 2,500 ha of agro-pastoral lands and 5,000 ha of Churia sal and mixed forest areas in strategic project locations throughout the four pilot Churia Range districts.													
Number of hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land showing maintained or improved soil conditions or vegetative cover in project sites in the four (4) focal districts during the project period.	Ha	District	Bio physical measurement (GIS)/ WWF Nepal Photographic records from project site visits	Churia Districts	Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	14,813 ha degraded area (restoration area)	2013	M&E staff with support from technical staff	1000	1500	2500	
Number of hectares (ha) of forested area in which communities are utilizing integrated landscape management practices	Ha	District	Management plans, maps, and formal written commitments tracked and recorded from communities engaged in project implementation within the four districts	Churia Districts	Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA	NA	M&E staff with support from technical staff	1500	3500	5000	
Project Component 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services													
Number of hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land showing maintained or improved soil conditions or vegetative cover in project sites in the four (4) focal districts during the project period.	Ha	District and project site	The metrics to determine maintained or improved soil conditions will be developed in cooperation with the MoFSC. Soil quality and condition metrics will be applied to the monitoring plan if feasible within the project timeframe and budget. Maintained or improved vegetative cover will serve as a proxy indicator for agro-ecosystem	Churia Districts	Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	1000	1500	2500	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
			services and will be verified through a combination of project site visits, photography, and GIS.										
Outcome 1.1 - Improved agricultural management through innovative pilot practices introduced at the field level that reduce erosion and climate vulnerability across 1,000 hectares (ha)													
Number of hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land with innovative agricultural and water management practices implemented during the project period	Ha	District , project site, type of innovative practice	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	300	300	600	
Number of hectares (ha) of degraded land with bio-engineering introduced to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and restore productivity during the project period	Ha	District , project site, land type (agricultural or pastoral)	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	200	200	400	
Number of hectares (ha) of land under improved management through project assistance that have female ownership or co-ownership	Ha	District , project site, land type (agricultural or	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	-	-	-	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
		pastoral)											
Output 1.1.1 - Innovative climate-smart, irrigated, terraced agriculture (SALT technology) implemented in at least 200 hectares (ha) of agricultural land within the 4 Churia districts to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability on steep slopes													
Number of hectares of agricultural land with SALT technology introduced in project sites during the project period	Ha	District , project site	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	70	130	200	
Output 1.1.2 - Mixed-cropping implemented in at least 200 hectares (ha) of agricultural land within the 4 districts to increase soil fertility and reduce climate vulnerability													
Number of hectares of agricultural land in the project sites implementing mixed-cropping during the project period	Ha	District , project site	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	70	130	200	
Output 1.1.3 - Water collection and storage, from uphill sources and rainwater, introduced at 20 storage points across at least 200 hectares (ha) within the 4 districts for controlled irrigation of terraced agricultural fields on sloping lands to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability													
Number of ha in the project districts where water collection and storage is introduced	Ha	District , project site	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	50	150	200	
Output 1.1.4 - Bio-engineering introduced in at least 6 sites across 400 hectares (ha) in 3 districts to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and restore productivity in heavily degraded areas													
Number of ha with bio-engineering introduced to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and restore productivity during project	Ha	District , project site	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring			M&E staff with support from technical staff	200	300	500	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
implementation						system							
Outcome 1.2 - Improved land management across 1,500 hectares (ha) through an enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector													
Number of hectares (ha) of agro-pastoral land with improved practices including sustainable grazing, stall feeding, and use of native fodder and forage grasses	Ha	District , project sites, innovative practice	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	500	1000	1500	
Number of community user groups practicing improved, innovative land management	User group	District , project sites, gender disaggregation for participants	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	30	
Number of community user groups incorporating new gender and social inclusion into their land management practices within the project period	User group	District , project sites, gender disaggregation for participants	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	30	
Output 1.2.1 - Twelve (12) stakeholder consultations held in the four (4) districts to identify and designate grazing pastures in areas less prone to erosion													

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
Number of stakeholder consultations conducted to identify and designate grazing pastures.	Con sultations	District , project site, gender disaggregation for participants	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	6	6	12	
Output 1.2.2 - Productive cattle breeds introduced, stall feeding implemented, and native fodder and forage grass promoted in at least 6 sites across 1,500 hectares (ha) in 3 districts													
Number of hectares (ha) where productive cattle breeds, stall feeding, and planting of native fodder and forage grass have been introduced during the project period	Ha	District , project sites, practice used	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	750	1250	2000	
Output 1.2.3 - Vulnerability, risk assessment, and hazard mapping conducted in the 4 districts to identify areas susceptible to natural disasters (eg. landslides, floods)													
1 VA (vulnerability assessment) conducted across the four (4) focal area districts on climate change impacts on agriculture, forests and water, and necessary climate adaptation strategies implemented.	Assessment	District , project sites, vulnerability type (landslide, flood, crop losses, etc.)	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	-	1	1	
Output 1.2.4 - Convene at least 20 community training events to encourage consolidated land management to prevent land fragmentation and encourage efficient and productive agricultural practices													

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
Number of community training events convened at project sites to encourage consolidated land management during the project period	Events	District , project sites, gender	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	20	
Output 1.2.5 - At least 15 community grants awarded in the 4 districts to promote priority community programs for improved land management within the agricultural sector													
Number of community grants awarded to groups operating in the project areas for improved land management in the agricultural sector during the project period	Community grants	District , project sites covered, gender disaggregation for community based organizations receiving grants	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	5	10	15	
Output 1.2.6 - Build capacity within the local communities and government extension services to implement and sustain these practices, monitor the outcomes, and enhance knowledge transfer for decision support													
Number of CBOs operating in project sites that implement and sustain best practices during the project period	CBO	District , project sites covered, gender disaggregation for community based	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	30	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
		organizations receiving grants											
Project Component 2: Integrated landscape management in forested areas													
Number of hectares (ha) of forested area in which communities are utilizing integrated landscape management practices	Ha	District and project site	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	1500	3500	5000	
Number of inclusive community user groups operating in the project areas with improved capacity to understand and implement sustainable forest management practices supported or enhanced during the project period	User group	District, project sites, gender disaggregation for participants	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	30	
Number of households at the project sites with new or increased income that result from alternative livelihood opportunities introduced during the project period	Household	District, project site, income source, gender disaggregation for respondents and	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report	Churia Districts	Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	150	450	600	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
		households											
Outcome 2.1 - Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities in 5,000 hectares (ha) of forested areas within the four pilot Churia Range districts													
Output 2.1.1 - Forest areas in strategic locations (steep slopes, large patches, priority sub-watersheds, water sources, high biodiversity areas, wildlife corridors) are identified, conserved, managed, and restored in at least 40 forested sites across 5,000 hectares (ha) in the 4 project districts													
Number of hectares in forested areas within the project districts where communities are conserving, managing, and restoring forests	Ha	District , project site	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	1500	3500	5000	
Output 2.1.2 - At least 70 alternative energy source units (biogas, solar, or improved cooking stoves) are distributed in the 4 Churia Range districts to reduce demand for firewood													
Number of alternative energy source units distributed in the project sites during the project period	Units	District , project site	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	20	50	70	
Output 2.1.3 - Alternative livelihood opportunities of at least 600 households in the 4 districts are supported with the promotion of alternative livelihoods based on sustainable use of forest-based resources													
Number of households in the project sites with reduced dependency on forest resources for fuel wood and livestock grazing	Hou seholds	District , project site, alternative livelihood, gender	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	150	450	600	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
		disaggregation for respondents and households											
Output 2.1.4 - At least 2 workshops held to disseminate and support local authorities in policy implementation related to community, collaborative and leasehold forestry programs to enhance the engagement of communities in restoration of degraded forest lands													
Number of workshops held during the project period to enhance the restoration of degraded forest lands by community groups operating in the project sites	Workshops	District, project sites, subject theme, gender disaggregation for participants	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	1	1	2	
Output 2.1.5 - At least 20 community grants awarded in the 4 districts to establish priority community programs for improved land management within the forestry sector													
Number of community user groups operating in the project areas with improved capacity to understand and implement sustainable forest management practices supported or enhanced during the project period	User groups	District, project sites, CBO member disaggregation for gender	Technical progress report	Churia Districts	bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	30	
Component 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement													

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
Number of institutions with improved capacity and mechanisms for coordinated land use planning	Institutions	District , project sites, capacity development area	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report		Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	3	6	9	
Number of community user group members trained in integrated landscape management (men/women)	User group members	District , project site, affiliation, gender disaggregation	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report		Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	30	
Number of land-use policies/plans developed for sustainable land management	Policies/plans	District , project site, stage of development or adoption	Technical progress report, field assessment report, evaluation report		Baseline and Project Completion	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system	NA		M&E staff with support from technical staff	2	2	4	
Outcome 3.1 - Enhanced cross-sectoral enabling environment for integrated landscape management													
Output 3.1.1 - Selection criteria is developed in a participatory manner to determine final project sites, recipients of training, criterion for issuing grants, and recipients of project benefits such as biogas													
Selection criteria developed in a participatory manner and used in project planning	Selection criteria	District , project site, mechanism	Technical progress report		bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical	-	-	-	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
		nism type				ng system			staff				
Output 3.1.2 - Capacity is built in 9 institutions and mechanisms and fora are instituted among local governments and diverse local community groups for inclusive, coordinated, inter-sectoral land and resource use plans													
Number of institutions with capacity developed and number of mechanisms and fora for coordinated, inter-sectoral land and resource use plans during the project period	Institution s	District , project site, mechanism type	Technical progress report		bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	3	6	9	
Output 3.1.3 - At least 30 CBO representatives are capacitated through integrated landscape management job training and internships to enhance the enabling environment for land conservation in the Churia Range													
Number of CBO representatives capacitated through integrated landscape management job training and internships during the project period	CBO Representatives	District , agency , gender disaggregation	Technical progress report		bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	10	20	30	
Output 3.1.4 - District-level land use planning and analyses that identify important and sensitive areas for restoration and conservation management are completed and integrated into district land-use plans in the 4 project districts													
Number of district-level land use analyses integrated into district land use plans in the four focal Churia Range districts during the project period	Analysis documents	District , project site	Technical progress report		bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	2	2	4	

Indicator Description	Unit	Dis-aggregation	MOV	Location	Frequency	Submit to	Baseline data	Date of Baseline	Staff to Collect Data	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	
Output 3.1.5 - Localized land-use policies/plans for sustainable land management in the 4 districts developed by the Government of Nepal in consultation with local government and local community groups, and project leadership structures, contact information and formal agency grievance mechanisms are established and shared													
Number of policies/plans for sustainable land management developed and adopted within the project period	Policies/plans	District, project site, stage of development or adoption	Technical progress report		bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	2	2	4	
Output 3.1.6 - Informational, educational, and communication materials on sustainable land management disseminated in at least 24 awareness programs and media interactions in the 4 districts													
Number of awareness programs where information on sustainable land management is disseminated in project areas during the project period	Awareness programs	District, project site, gender disaggregation for program participants	Technical progress report		bi-annual	Matt Erke via the project monitoring system			M&E staff with support from technical staff	8	16	24	

APPENDIX 14: BUDGET BY PROJECT OBJECTIVES (GEF COMPONENT)

Project Budget Component 1: Sustainable Management for Improved Flows of Agro-ecosystem

Project Nr:
Project Title: Forest restoration and sustainable land management in the Churia Range to combat land degradation
Activity Full Title:

Budget issued on: 30-Jul-13
Budget prepared by: Narayan KC
Office name: WWF Nepal

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FORMAT:

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE:

In [US \$]

WWF G/L CODE REF.	CATEGORY			RATE			UNIT			Sustainable Management for Improved Flows of Agro-ecosystem						PROJECT TOTAL		
										YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3				
										# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>																		
- 50	-																	
	Salaries - Proposed Local Staff Costs including all benefit																	
	1	GEF Project Manager [New hire]		\$27,731	FTE	20%	\$5,546	20%	\$6,101	20%	\$6,711	20%	\$18,358					
	2	GEF Finance Officer [New hire]		\$12,880	FTE	10%	\$1,288	10%	\$1,417	10%	\$1,558	10%	\$4,263					
	3	GEF Agro Technical Lead [New hire]		\$12,880	FTE	100%	\$12,880	100%	\$14,168	100%	\$15,585	100%	\$42,633					
	4	GEF M&E Officer [New hire]		\$13,500	FTE	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-					
	Subtotal - Local staff costs						\$19,714		\$21,686		\$23,854		\$65,254					
	TOTAL - PERSONNEL						\$19,714		\$21,686		\$23,854		\$65,254					
<u>FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES</u>																		
	TOTAL - FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES						\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-					

TRAVEL												
-	-											
53	IN COUNTRY TRAVEL:											
	Staff - Travel Airfares											
	1	Kathmandu - Simara	\$101	R/Trip	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	6.00	\$606
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur	\$112	R/Trip	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	6.00	\$672
	Subtotal - Airfares					\$426		\$426		\$426		\$1,278
	Staff - Perdiem Costs											
	1	Kathmandu - Simara (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540
	Subtotal - Staff - Perdiem Costs					\$360		\$360		\$360		\$1,080
	Vehicle rental & other costs											
	1	Vehicle rental, Simara (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/day	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	2	Vehicle rental, Bharatpur (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/day	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	Subtotal - rental & other costs					\$1,168		\$1,168		\$1,168		\$3,504
	TOTAL - TRAVEL					\$1,954		\$1,954		\$1,954		\$5,862
CONTRACTUAL												
-												
51	Consultant Rates											
	1	Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	\$115	Day	0.00	\$-	15.00	\$1,725	15.00	\$1,725	30.00	\$3,450
					0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-
	Sub-Total Consultant Rates					\$-		\$1,725		\$1,725		\$3,450
51	Consultant Expenses											
	1	Perdiem, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	\$30	Day	0.00	\$-	10.00	\$300	10.00	\$300	20.00	\$600

	2	Airfare - Bharatpur, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson.	\$ 112	R/Trip	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$112	1.00	\$112	2.00	\$224
	3	Vehicle Rental, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson.	\$ 146	Day	0.00	\$-	3.00	\$437	3.00	\$437	6.00	\$874
		Subtotal - Consultant Expenses				\$-		\$849		\$849		\$1,698
	TOTAL - CONTRACTUAL					\$-		\$2,574		\$2,574		\$5,148
OTHER												
52	<u>GRANTS & AGREEMENTS</u>											
	1	Grant to MoAD, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	1.00	\$74,631	1.00	\$49,280	1.00	\$45,640	3.00	\$169,551
	2	Grant to MoFSC, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	1.00	\$12,191	1.00	\$11,200	1.00	\$11,200	3.00	\$34,591
	3	Grant to MoLRM, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	1.00	\$16,391	1.00	\$15,400	0.00	\$-	2.00	\$31,791
		Support to CBOs	1,515	each	6.00	\$9,090	7.00	\$10,605	6.00	\$9,090	19.00	\$28,785
	Subtotal -Grants & Agreements					\$112,304		\$86,485		\$65,930		\$264,719
	TOTAL - GRANTS & AGREEMENTS					\$112,304		\$86,485		\$65,930		\$264,719
53	<u>WORKSHOPS</u>											
	Workshops/Training Venue & Facilities		\$ -	Event	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-
	Subtotal - Workshops/Training & Facilities					\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS					\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
54,56,57	OTHER DIRECT COSTS:											
	1	IEC Materials, good practices document	\$ 2	Pub/copy	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	500.00	\$1,000	500.00	\$1,000
	2	Laptop Computer	\$	Ea.	1.00	\$1,650	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$1,650

		1,650										
	3	Motorbike	\$ 3,197	Ea.	1.00	\$3,197	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$3,197
	4	GPS and Camera	\$ 815	Ea.	1.00	\$815	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$815
	5	LCD Projector	\$ 900	Ea.	0.25	\$225	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.25	\$225
	Subtotal - Other Direct Costs					\$5,887		\$-		\$1,000		\$6,887
	TOTAL-OTHER DIRECT COSTS					\$5,887		\$-		\$1,000		\$6,887
	TOTAL - OTHER					\$118,191		\$86,485		\$66,930		\$271,606
	TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES					\$139,859		\$112,698		\$95,312		\$347,869
	-			0%		\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL - COSTS					\$139,859		\$112,698		\$95,312		\$347,869
	TOTAL - COST SHARE											\$-
	TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITY COSTS					\$139,859		\$112,698		\$95,312		\$347,869

Project Budget Component 2: Integrated Landscape Management in the wider Churia Range Forested Areas

Project Nr:

Budget issued on:

30-Jul-13

Project Title: Forest restoration and sustainable land management in the Churia Range to combat land degradation

Budget prepared by:

Narayan KC

Activity Full Title:

Office name:

WWF Nepal

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FORMAT:

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE:

In [US \$]

WWF G/L CODE REF.	CATEGORY				Integrated Landscape Management in the wider Churia Range Forested Areas								
					YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3				PROJECT TOTAL
					# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>													
- 50	Salaries - Proposed Local Staff Costs including all benefit												
	1	GEF Project Manager [New hire]	\$	27,731	FTE	20%	\$5,546	20%	\$6,101	20%	\$6,711	20%	\$18,358
	2	GEF Finance Officer [New hire]	\$	12,880	FTE	10%	\$1,288	10%	\$1,417	10%	\$1,558	10%	\$4,263
	3	GEF Forest Technical Lead [New hire]	\$	12,880	FTE	100 %	\$12,880	100 %	\$14,168	100%	\$15,585	100%	\$42,633
	4	GEF M&E Officer [New hire]	\$	13,500	FTE	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
	Subtotal - Local staff costs						\$19,714	\$21,686	\$23,854	\$65,254			
	TOTAL - PERSONNEL						\$19,714	\$21,686	\$23,854	\$65,254			
<u>FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES</u>													
	TOTAL - FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES						\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-			
<u>TRAVEL</u>													
- 53	<u>IN COUNTRY TRAVEL:</u> Staff - Travel Airfares												

	1	Kathmandu - Simara	\$	101	R/Trip	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	6.00	\$606
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur	\$	112	R/Trip	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	6.00	\$672
	Subtotal - Airfares						\$426		\$426		\$426		\$1,278
	Staff - Perdiem Costs												
	1	Kathmandu - Simara (3 days/trip)	\$	30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur (3 days/trip)	\$	30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540
	Subtotal - Staff - Perdiem Costs						\$360		\$360		\$360		\$1,080
	Vehicle rental & other costs												
	1	Vehicle rental, Simara (2 days/trip)	\$	146	Trip/day	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	2	Vehicle rental, Bharatpur (2 days/trip)	\$	146	Trip/day	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	Subtotal - rental & other costs						\$1,168		\$1,168		\$1,168		\$3,504
	TOTAL - TRAVEL						\$1,954		\$1,954		\$1,954		\$5,862
CONTRACTUAL													
-	Consultant Rates												
51	1	Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	\$	115	Day	0.00	\$-	15.0	\$1,725	15.0	\$1,725	30.00	\$3,450
						0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-
	Sub-Total Consultant Rates						\$-		\$1,725		\$1,725		\$3,450
51	Consultant Expenses												

	1	Airfare - Bharatpur, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson. Per diem, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson learned	\$ 112	R/Trip	0.00 \$-	1.00 \$112	1.00 \$112	2.00 \$224
	2	Vehicle Rental, Develop & disseminate good practices/lesson.	\$ 30	Day	0.00 \$-	10.00 \$300	10.00 \$300	20.00 \$600
	3	Subtotal - Consultant Expenses	\$ 146	Day	0.00 \$-	3.00 \$437	3.00 \$437	6.00 \$874
					0.00 \$-	0.00 \$849	0.00 \$849	0.00 \$1,698
	TOTAL - CONTRACTUAL				\$-	\$2,574	\$2,574	\$5,148
OTHER	52 GRANTS & AGREEMENTS							
	1	Grant to MoAD, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-
	2	Grant to MoFSC, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	1.00 \$41,174	1.00 \$51,467	1.00 \$30,880	3.00 \$123,521
	3	Grant to MoLRM, Govt. of Nepal	\$ -	n/a	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-
		Support to CBOs	1,515	each	7.00 \$10,605	7.00 \$10,605	7.00 \$10,605	\$31,815
	Subtotal -Grants & Agreements				\$51,779	\$62,072	\$41,485	\$155,336
	TOTAL - GRANTS & AGREEMENTS				\$51,779	\$62,072	\$41,485	\$155,336
53	WORKSHOPS							
	Workshops/Training Venue & Facilities							
	2		\$ -	Event	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-
	3		\$ -	Event	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-
	4		\$ -	Time	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-

	5	\$ -	Event	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-
	Subtotal - Workshops/Training & Facilities				\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS				\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
54,56,57	OTHER DIRECT COSTS:										
	1 IEC Materials, good practices document	\$ 2	Pub/copy	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	500.00	\$1,000	500.00	\$1,000
	2 Laptop Computer	\$ 1,650	Ea.	1.00	\$1,650	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$1,650
	3 Motorbike	\$ 3,197	Ea.	1.00	\$3,197	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$3,197
	4 GPS and camera	\$ 815	Ea.	1.00	\$815	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$815
	5 LCD Projector	\$ 900	Ea.	0.25	\$225	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.25	\$225
	Subtotal - Other Direct Costs				\$5,887		\$-		\$1,000		\$6,887
	TOTAL-OTHER DIRECT COSTS				\$5,887		\$-		\$1,000		\$6,887
	TOTAL - OTHER				\$57,666		\$62,072		\$42,485		\$162,223
	TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES				\$79,334		\$88,286		\$70,867		\$238,486
	0	-	0%		\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL - COSTS				\$79,334		\$88,286		\$70,867		\$238,486
	TOTAL - COST SHARE										\$-
	TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITY COSTS				\$79,334		\$88,286		\$,867		\$238,486

Project Budget Component 3: Cross-sectoral Coordination and Local Community Engagement

Project Nr:		Budget issued on:	30-Jul-13
Project Title:	Forest restoration and sustainable land management in the Churia Range to combat land degradation	Budget prepared by:	Narayan KC
Activity Full Title:		Office name:	WWF Nepal
DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FORMAT:			

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE:	In [US \$]
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WWF G/L CODE REF.	CATEGORY	RATE	UNIT	Cross-sectoral Coordination and Local Community Engagement							
				YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		PROJECT TOTAL	
				# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost
<u>PERSONNEL</u>											
- 50	Salaries - Proposed Local Staff Costs including all benefit										
	1 GEF Project Manager [New hire]	\$27,731	FTE	25%	\$6,933	25%	\$7,626	25%	\$8,389	25%	\$22,948
	2 GEF Finance Officer [New hire]	\$12,880	FTE	15%	\$1,932	15%	\$2,125	15%	\$2,338	15%	\$6,395
	3 GEF M&E Officer [New hire]	\$13,500	FTE	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
	Subtotal - Local staff costs				\$8,865		\$9,751		\$10,726		\$29,342
	TOTAL - PERSONNEL				\$8,865		\$9,751		\$10,726		\$29,342
<u>FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES</u>											
	TOTAL - FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES				\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
<u>TRAVEL</u>											

- 53	<u>IN COUNTRY TRAVEL:</u>											
	Staff - Travel Airfares											
	1	Kathmandu - Simara	\$101	R/Trip	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	6.00	\$606
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur	\$112	R/Trip	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	6.00	\$672
	Subtotal - Airfares					\$426		\$426		\$426		\$1,278
	Staff - Perdiem Costs											
	1	Kathmandu - Simara (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540
	Subtotal - Staff - Perdiem Costs					\$360		\$360		\$360		\$1,080
	Vehicle rental & other costs											
	1	Vehicle rental, Simara (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/day	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	2	Vehicle rental, Bharatpur (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/day	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	Subtotal - rental & other costs					\$1,168		\$1,168		\$1,168		\$3,504
	TOTAL - TRAVEL					\$1,954		\$1,954		\$1,954		\$5,862
<u>CONTRACTUAL</u>												
- 51	Consultant Rates											
	1	IEC materials development (Community awareness)	115	Day	15.00	\$1,725	15.00	\$1,725	0.00	\$-	30.00	\$3,450
	Sub-Total Consultant Rates					\$1,725		\$1,725		\$-		\$3,450
51	Consultant Expenses											

		-	Day	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-
	Subtotal - Consultant Expenses				\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL - CONTRACTUAL				\$1,725		\$1,725		\$-		\$3,450
OTHER											
52	<u>GRANTS & AGREEMENTS</u>										
	1 Grant to MoAD, Govt. of Nepal	-	n/a	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-
	2 Grant to MoFSC, Govt. of Nepal	-	n/a	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-
	3 Grant to MoLRM, Govt. of Nepal	-	n/a	1.00	\$21,000	1.00	\$30,100	1.00	\$6,580	3.00	\$57,680
	Subtotal -Grants & Agreements				\$21,000		\$30,100		\$6,580		\$57,680
	TOTAL - GRANTS & AGREEMENTS				\$21,000		\$30,100		\$6,580		\$57,680
53	<u>WORKSHOPS</u>										
	Workshops/Training Venue & Facilities										
	1 Capacity building WWF/partners	2,500	Ea.	1.00	\$2,500	1.00	\$2,500	1.00	\$2,500	3.00	\$7,500
	2 Field partners coordination meeting	1,500	Ea.	1.00	\$1,500	1.00	\$1,500	1.00	\$1,500	3.00	\$4,500
	Subtotal - Workshops/Training & Facilities				\$4,000		\$4,000		\$4,000		\$12,000
	TOTAL - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS				\$4,000		\$4,000		\$4,000		\$12,000
54,56,57	OTHER DIRECT COSTS:										

	1	IEC materials development (Community awareness)	2	Pub/copy	0.00	\$-	1000.00	\$2,000	1000.00	\$2,000	2000.00	\$4,000
	4	LCD Projector	900	Ea.	0.25	\$225	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	0.25	\$225
	Subtotal - Other Direct Costs					\$225		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$4,225
	TOTAL-OTHER DIRECT COSTS					\$225		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$4,225
TOTAL - OTHER						\$25,225		\$36,100		\$12,580		\$73,905
TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES						\$37,769		\$49,530		\$25,260		\$112,559
	-		-	0%		\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITY COSTS					\$37,769		\$49,530		\$25,260		\$112,559

Project Budget Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

Project Nr:		Budget issued on:	30-Jul-13
Project Title:	Forest restoration and sustainable land management in the Churia Range to combat land degradation	Budget prepared by:	Narayan KC
Activity Full Title:		Office name:	WWF Nepal
DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FORMAT:			

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE: In [US \$]

WWF		Monitoring and Evaluation	
-----	--	---------------------------	--

G/L CODE				YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		PROJECT TOTAL		
REF.	CATEGORY		RATE	UNIT	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost
<u>PERSONNEL</u>												
- 50	Salaries - Proposed Local Staff Costs including all benefit											
	1	GEF Project Manager [New hire]	\$27,731	FTE	15%	\$4,160	15%	\$4,576	15%	\$5,033	15%	\$13,769
	2	GEF Finance Officer [New hire]	\$12,880	FTE	10%	\$1,288	10%	\$1,417	10%	\$1,558	10%	\$4,263
	3	GEF Coord & Capacity Technical Lead [New hire]	\$12,880	FTE	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
	4	GEF M&E Lead [New hire]	\$13,500	FTE	100%	\$13,500	100 %	\$14,850	100 %	\$16,335	100%	\$44,685
	Subtotal - Local staff costs					\$18,948		\$20,842		\$22,927		\$62,717
	TOTAL - PERSONNEL					\$18,948		\$20,842		\$22,927		\$62,717
<u>FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES</u>												
	TOTAL - FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES					\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
<u>TRAVEL</u>												
- 53	<u>IN COUNTRY TRAVEL:</u>											
	Staff - Travel Airfares											
	1	Kathmandu - Simara	\$101	R/Trip	3	\$303	3	\$303	3	\$303	9	\$909
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur	\$112	R/Trip	3	\$336	3	\$336	3	\$336	9	\$1,008
	Subtotal - Airfares					\$639		\$639		\$639		\$1,917

Staff - Perdiem Costs												
1	Kathmandu - Simara (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	9	\$270	9	\$270	9	\$270	27	\$810	
2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	9	\$270	9	\$270	9	\$270	27	\$810	
Subtotal - Staff - Perdiem Costs					\$540		\$540		\$540		\$1,620	
Vehicle rental & other costs												
1	Vehicle rental, Simara (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/day	6	\$876	6	\$876	6	\$876	6	\$2,628	
2	Vehicle rental, Bharatpur (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/day	6	\$876	6	\$876	6	\$876	6	\$2,628	
Subtotal - rental & other costs					\$1,752		\$1,752		\$1,752		\$5,256	
TOTAL - TRAVEL					\$2,931		\$2,931		\$2,931		\$8,793	
<u>CONTRACTUAL</u>												
- 51	Consultant Rates											
1	Baseline Assessment	\$650	Day	20.00	\$13,000	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	20.00	\$13,000	
2	GIS Mapping	\$115	Day	11.00	\$1,265	10.00	\$1,150	11.00	\$1,265	32.00	\$3,680	
3	Project Final Evaluation	\$650	Day	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	25.00	\$16,250	25.00	\$16,250	
Sub-Total Consultant Rates					\$14,265		\$1,150		\$17,515		\$32,930	
Consultant Expenses												
1	Airfare - International, Baseline Assessment	\$3,000	R/Trip	1.00	\$3,000	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$3,000	
2	Airfare, In - country, Baseline	\$200	R/Trip	1.00	\$200	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$200	

	3	Assessment Perdiem, travel expenses, Baseline Assessment	\$250	Day	15.00	\$3,750	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	15.00	\$3,750
	4	Airfare - International, Project Final Evaluation	\$3,000	R/Trip	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$3,000	1.00	\$3,000
	5	Airfare, In - country, Project Final Evaluation	\$200	R/Trip	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	2.00	\$400	2.00	\$400
	6	Perdiem, travel expenses, Project Final Evaluation	\$250	Day	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	25.00	\$6,250	25.00	\$6,250
		Subtotal - Consultant Expenses				\$6,950		\$-		\$9,650		\$16,600
	TOTAL - CONTRACTUAL					\$21,215		\$1,150		\$27,165		\$49,530
OTHER												
52	<u>GRANTS & AGREEMENTS</u>											
	Subtotal -Grants & Agreements					\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL - GRANTS & AGREEMENTS					\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
53	<u>WORKSHOPS</u>											
	Workshops/Training Venue & Facilities											
	1	Joint project planning and review	\$1,750	Event	1.00	\$1,750	1.00	\$1,750	1.00	\$1,750	3.00	\$5,250
	2	Cross learning/sharing workshop	\$1,500	Event	1.00	\$1,500	1.00	\$1,500	1.00	\$1,500	3.00	\$4,500
	Subtotal - Workshops/Training & Facilities					\$3,250		\$3,250		\$3,250		\$9,750

	TOTAL - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS			\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$9,750
54,56,57	OTHER DIRECT COSTS:						
	1 Laptop Computer	\$1,650	Ea.	1.00 \$1,650	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	1.00 \$1,650
	2 Motorbike	\$3,197	Ea.	1.00 \$3,197	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	1.00 \$3,197
	3 GPS and camera	\$815	Ea.	1.00 \$815	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	1.00 \$815
	4 LCD Projector	\$900	Ea.	0.25 \$225	0.00 \$-	0.00 \$-	0.25 \$225
	Subtotal - Other Direct Costs			\$5,887	\$-	\$-	\$5,887
	TOTAL-OTHER DIRECT COSTS			\$5,887	\$-	\$-	\$5,887
	TOTAL - OTHER			\$9,137	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$15,637
	TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES			\$52,231	\$28,173	\$56,273	\$136,677
	-	-	0%	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	TOTAL - COSTS			\$52,231	\$28,173	\$56,273	\$136,677
	TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITY COSTS			\$52,231	\$28,173	\$56,273	\$136,677

Project Budget: Project Management

Project Nr:

Budget issued on:

30-Jul-13

Project Title:
Forest restoration and sustainable land management in the Churia Range to combat land degradation

Budget prepared by:
Narayan KC

Activity Full Title:
Office name:
WWF Nepal

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FORMAT:

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE: In [US \$]

WWF					Project Management							
G/L CODE					YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		PROJECT TOTAL	
REF.	CATEGORY		RATE	UNIT	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost	# Units	Cost
PERSONNEL												
-												
50	Salaries - Proposed Local Staff Costs including all benefit											
	1	GEF Project Manager [New hire]	\$27,731	FTE	20%	\$5,546	20%	\$6,101	20%	\$6,711	20%	\$ 18,358
	2	GEF Finance Officer [New hire]	\$12,880	FTE	55%	\$7,084	55%	\$7,792	55%	\$8,572	55%	\$ 23,448
	3	GEF Outcome Technical Leads [New hires]	\$12,880	FTE	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$ -
	4	GEF M&E Officer [New hire]	\$13,500	FTE	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$ -
	Subtotal - Local staff costs				\$12,630		\$13,893		\$15,283		\$ 41,806	

	TOTAL - PERSONNEL					\$12,630		\$13,893		\$15,283		\$41,806		
FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES														
	TOTAL - FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES					\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-		
TRAVEL														
-														
53	IN COUNTRY TRAVEL:													
	Staff - Travel Airfares													
	1	Kathmandu – Simara	\$101	R/Trip	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	2.00	\$202	6.00	\$606		
	2	Kathmandu – Bharatpur	\$112	R/Trip	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	6.00	\$672		
	Subtotal – Airfares					\$426		\$426		\$426		\$1,278		
	Staff - Perdiem Costs													
	1	Kathmandu - Simara (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540		
	2	Kathmandu - Bharatpur (3 days/trip)	\$30	Day	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	6.00	\$180	18.00	\$540		
	Subtotal - Staff - Perdiem Costs					\$360		\$360		\$360		\$1,080		
	Vehicle rental & other costs													

	1	Vehicle rental, Simara (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/D ay	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	2	Vehicle rental, Bharatpur (2 days/trip)	\$146	Trip/D ay	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	4.00	\$584	12.00	\$1,752
	Subtotal - rental & other costs					\$1,168		\$1,168		\$1,168		\$3,504
	TOTAL - TRAVEL					\$1,954		\$1,954		\$1,954		\$5,862
<u>CONTRACTUAL</u>												
- 51	Consultant Rates											
	1	Annual Financial Audit	\$150	Day	12.00	\$1,800	12.00	\$1,800	12.00	\$1,800	36.00	\$5,400
	Sub-Total Consultant Rates					\$1,800		\$1,800		\$1,800		\$5,400
	Consultant Expenses											
	1	Perdiem and other expenses, Financial Audit	\$30	Day	16.00	\$480	16.00	\$480	16.00	\$480	48.00	\$1,440
	2	Airfare, Kathmandu - Bharatpur, Financial Audit	\$112	R/Trip	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	2.00	\$224	6.00	\$672
	3	Vehicle hire, Financial Audit	\$146	Day	6.00	\$876	6.00	\$876	6.00	\$876	18.00	\$2,628
	Subtotal - Consultant Expenses					\$1,580		\$1,580		\$1,580		\$4,740
	TOTAL - CONTRACTUAL					\$3,380		\$3,380		\$3,380		\$10,140
<u>OTHER</u>												

52	<u>GRANTS & AGREEMENTS</u>												
	Subtotal -Grants & Agreements						\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
	TOTAL - GRANTS & AGREEMENTS						\$-		\$-		\$-		\$-
53	<u>WORKSHOPS</u>												
	Workshops/Training Venue & Facilities												
	1	GEF Inception Meeting	\$2,700	Event	1.00	\$2,700	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$2,700	
	2	GEF Wrap up-Close out Meeting	\$2,700	Event	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$2,700	1.00	\$2,700	
	Subtotal - Workshops/Training & Facilities					<u>\$2,700</u>		<u>\$-</u>		<u>\$2,700</u>		<u>\$5,400</u>	
	TOTAL - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS						\$2,700		\$-		\$2,700		\$5,400
54,56,57	OTHER DIRECT COSTS:												
56	1	Laptop Computer	\$1,650	Ea.	1.00	\$1,650	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$1,650	
	2	Desktop Computer	\$885	Ea.	1.00	\$885	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$885	
	3	Printer	\$500	Ea.	1.00	\$500	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$500	
	4	Fax/scanner	\$231	Ea.	1.00	\$231	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$231	
	5	Photocopier	\$750	Ea.	1.00	\$750	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$750	
	7	Telephone set	\$40	Ea.	5.00	\$200	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	5.00	\$200	
	8	GPS and camera	\$815	Ea.	1.00	\$815	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	1.00	\$815	

	9	Furniture & Fixtures	\$650	Ea.	5.00	\$3,250	0.00	\$-	0.00	\$-	5.00	\$3,250
	10	Stationary & Supplies	\$100	Mo.	12.00	\$1,200	12.00	\$1,200	12.00	\$1,200	36.00	\$3,600
	11	Field Running Costs (fuel, insurance, maintenance & tax]	\$175	Mo.	12.00	\$2,100	12.00	\$2,100	12.00	\$2,100	36.00	\$6,300
	12	Field gears/supplies	\$75	Set	4.00	\$300	1.00	\$75	1.00	\$75	6.00	\$450
	Subtotal - Other Direct Costs					\$11,881		\$3,375		\$3,375		\$18,631
	TOTAL-OTHER DIRECT COSTS					\$11,881		\$3,375		\$3,375		\$18,631
	TOTAL - OTHER					\$14,581		\$3,375		\$6,075		\$24,031
	TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES					\$32,545		\$22,602		\$26,692		\$81,839
	TOTAL - COSTS					\$32,545		\$22,602		\$26,692		\$81,839
	TOTAL - COST SHARE											\$-
	TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITY COSTS					\$32,545		\$22,602		\$26,692		\$81,839

APPENDIX 15: CO-FINANCING BY SOURCE (GEF TABLE C)



Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Project Management	Total
		Agro-ecosystem	Forests	Capacity & Coordination	M&E		
WWF-US	Cash				167,667	231,197	398,864
	In-kind						-
WWF-Nepal	Cash	22,500	261,563	69,000	18,187	78,750	450,000
	In-kind						-
Nepal Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation	Cash		942,740	404,026			1,346,766
	In-kind						-
Nepal Ministry of Land Reform and Management	Cash	227,529		530,887			758,416
	In-kind						-
Nepal Ministry of Agriculture Development	Cash	1,444,818					1,444,818
	In-kind						-
Total Cofinancing:		1,694,847	1,204,303	1,003,913	185,854	309,947	4,398,864
GEF Total Funding:		347,869	238,486	112,559	136,677	81,840	917,431
GEF:CoF Ratio:		1 : 4.87	1 : 5.05	1 : 8.92	1 : 1.36	1 : 3.79	1 : 4.79
					Project Subtotal: 4,088,917	Project Total: 5,316,295	

APPENDIX 16: CO-FINANCING COMMITMENT LETTERS



Sub:-

9 May 2013

Mr. HervéLefevre
Director, GEF relations
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC20037

Re: Co-financing support for Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

Dear Mr. Lefevre,

Ministry of Land Reform and Management will provide US \$ 758,416.00 (USD Seven Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Sixteen Only) in co-financing to World Wildlife Fund, Inc., for the above-referenced project during the period 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2016. This contribution will consist of the following:

Activity	Value
Objective 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services	US \$ 227,529.00
Objective 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement	US \$ 530,887.00
Total Value	US \$ 758,416.00

This contribution is intended to qualify as co-finance for the above-referenced project should the proposal be successful.

Sincerely,

Nab Raj Subedi
Chief Survey Officer

Phone: +977-1-4211666, 4211632, 4211843, 4211713, 4211833, Fax: +977-1-4211708
E-mail: molrm@most.gov.np



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Agricultural Development



4211639
4211808
4211932
4211665
4211687
4211915
4211940
4211935

Fax: 4211935

Ref.: P/2069/70

Singha Durbar,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

2 May 2013

Mr. Hervé Lefevre
Director, GEF relations
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Co-financing support for Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

Dear Mr. Lefevre,

Ministry of Agricultural Development will provide US \$ 1,444,818.00 (USD One Million Four Hundred Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen Only) in co-financing to World Wildlife Fund, Inc. for the above-referenced project during the period 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2016. This contribution will consist of the following:

Activity	Value
Objective 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services	US \$ 1,444,818.00
Total Value	US \$ 1,444,818.00

This contribution is intended to qualify as co-finance for the above-referenced project should the proposal be successful.

Sincerely Yours,

(Mahendra Nath Poudel)
Senior Agriculture Economist

E-mail: memoad@moad.gov.np, Website: www.moad.gov.np



Government of Nepal

Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation



Ph. { 4211567
4211892
4211928
4211936
4211742
Fax. 4211862
4211868

P.O.Box No. 3987
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

Ref. No. 212

8 May 2013

Date :-

Mr. HerveLefevre
Director, GEF relations
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC20037

Re: Co-financing support for Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal.

Dear Mr. Lefevre,

Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation will provide US \$ 1,346,766 (USD One Million Three Hundred Forty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty six only) in co-financing to World Wildlife Fund, Inc., for the above-referenced project during the period 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2016. This contribution will consist of the following:

Activity	Value in US\$
Objective 2: Integrated landscape management in the wider Churia Range forested areas	
Objective 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement	
Total Value	1,346,766

This contribution is intended to qualify as co-finance for the above-referenced project should the proposal be successful.

Sincerely,

(Ram Bhakta Malla)
Planning Officer



WWF for a living planet®

Ref: *C2D2/CR/ON/2013*

2 May 2013

Mr. Hervé Lefeuve
Director, GEF relations
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

WWF Nepal Program
PO Box 7660
Baluwatar
Kathmandu
Nepal
Tel: + 4434820/4434970
Fax: + 00-977-1-4438456
www.wwfnepal.org

Re: Co-financing support for Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

Dear Mr. Lefeuve,

WWF Nepal Program Office will provide US \$ 450,000.00 (USD Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Only) in co-financing to World Wildlife Fund, Inc., for the above-referenced project during the period 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2016. This contribution will consist of the following:

Activity	Value
Objective 1: Sustainable management for improved flows of agro-ecosystem services	US \$ 30,000.00
Objective 2: Integrated landscape management in the wider Churia Range forested areas	US \$ 330,000.00
Objective 3: Cross-sectoral coordination and local community engagement	US \$ 90,000.00
Total Value	US \$ 450,000.00

This contribution is intended to qualify as co-finance for the above-referenced project should the proposal be successful.

Sincerely,

Anandhar
Anil Maganadhar,
Country Representative



Take action for a living planet!



World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th St, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1193
Phone: 202-293-4800
Fax: 202-293-9211
worldwildlife.org

06/04/2013

To: Herve Lefeuivre, GEF Coordinator, World Wildlife Fund Inc.

From: Thomas Dillon, Senior Vice President, Field Programs, World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

Re: Co-financing support for Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

I am pleased to inform you that WWF US Field Programs will provide a co-financing of US\$283,715 in the form of cash and in kind, for the above-referenced project during the period July 2013 to June 2016. This contribution will consist of the following:

ACTIVITY	VALUE
Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation	\$ 64,695
Project Management	\$219,020
TOTAL VALUE	\$283,715

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.C. Dillon", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Dillon
Senior Vice President, Field Programs,
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

APPENDIX 17: ENDORSEMENT LETTER OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINTS



Government of Nepal MINISTRY OF FINANCE

International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division
Ministry of Finance

SINGHADURBAR
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

September 2, 2013

Ref: SEC/D/493

To: Mr. Hervé Lefeuve
Director, GEF relations
World Wildlife Fund Inc.
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Subject: Endorsement for the project "Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal"

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Nepal, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government's national priorities identified in the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Agency(ies) listed below. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM), Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Ministry of Agriculture and Development (MoAD) and Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE). I request the GEF Agency(ies) to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing (from GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and/or NPFF) being requested for this project is US\$1,000,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Nepal is detailed in the table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Amount (in US\$)		
			Project Preparation	Project	Fee
GEFTF	World Wildlife Fund, Inc.	LD	0	917,431	82,569
Total GEF Resources			0	917,431	82,569
					1,000,000

I consent to the utilization of Nepal's allocations in GEF-5 as defined in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).]

Sincerely,

Madhu Kumar Marasini

(Madhu Kumar Marasini)
Operation Focal Point

Copy to: Convention Focal Point for UNFCCC
Convention Focal Point for UNCBD
Convention Focal Point for UNCCD

GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Template, November 2011

Tel: Minister 4211809, Secretary 4211332, Foreign Aid Division 4211372, 4211867
Fax No. 4211164, 4211165, Website www.mof.gov.np

APPENDIX 18: GEF FOCAL AREA TRACKING TOOL(S)



Land Degradation Focal Area - Portfolio Monitoring and Tracking Tool (PMAT)

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1. Project Title:	Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal
2. GEF ID:	5596
3. Project Implementation Period (Indicate: starting and ending dates)	Jan 2014 - Jan 2017
4. PMAT Completion Date	10/25/2013
a. CEO Endorsement/Approval Document	Approx 8/31/2013
b. Annual (specify year) – TO BE LINKED TO PIR	
c. Project Closure (specify year)	
5. Person Responsible for Completing the PMAT (Indicate Name, Position, Institution):	Matt Erke, Eastern Himalayas Program, WWF
6. Scale of Project - Refer to Guidelines for definition and check (x) only the most appropriate.	
a. Global	
b. Regional	
c. Sub regional/ Transboundary	
d. National	
e. Sub national - district, provincial	X

f. Site - landscape, watershed/catchment, river basin (specify)	
---	--



PART I – PROJECT CONTEXT AND TARGETED IMPACTS

1. Agro-ecological context – Characterization of area in which project is located			
1.a	What agroecological zone(s) is the project situated? Select the most appropriate from the drop down menu.	iv. Sub-humid	Select
1.b.	What production system(s) will the project target? Please provide an estimated coverage of the area targeted.		
	i. Agriculture (including food crop, tree crop, and crop-livestock)	2,500	Hectares
	ii. Rangeland		Hectares
	iii. Pastoral		Hectares
	iv. Forestry	5,000	Hectares
	v. Mixed Systems		Hectares
1.c.	Focus of project interventions – Please provide total area covered for only those that apply		
	i. Improved agricultural management (crop and crop-livestock)		Hectares
	ii. Improved rangeland and pasture management (livestock based)		Hectares
	iii. Improved forest management (SFM)		Hectares
	iv. Restoration of degraded lands	7,498	Hectares
	v. Re-vegetation, Reforestation	15,505	Hectares
	vi. Protection of natural resources (e.g. Newly designated protected areas, erosion/flood/landslide control)		Hectares
	vii. Integrated landscape management (land-water-vegetation)		Hectares
1.d.	What types of agricultural land use and/or farming practices are employed in the target area? Please provide an estimated coverage as appropriate.		
			Hectares
	ii. Irrigated		Hectares
	iii. Mixed		Hectares

2. Socio-economic context - Characterization of affected communities and populations			
2.a.	Numbers of rural people		
	Male	1,260,256	Number
	Female	1,135,668	Number
2.b.	Number of people defined as poor		
	Male	1,260,256	Number
	Female	1,135,668	Number
2.c.	Number of urban/peri-urban people		
	Male	0	Number
	Female	0	Number
2.d.	Average annual farm production (crop, livestock)		
	Crop (Main Crop Only)	1.764	T/Ha
	Livestock	6,222,762	Number
2.e.	Average annual income (per capita)	463.18	US\$/household
3. Land Degradation (desertification and deforestation) problem			
3.a.	What is the extent of land degradation within the project boundary?		
	i. Agriculture (including food crop, tree crop, and crop-livestock)	7,498	Hectares
	ii. Rangeland		Hectares
	iii. Pastoral		Hectares
	iv. Forestry	15,505	Hectares
	v. Mixed Systems		Hectares
3.b.	What is the nature of land degradation to be addressed directly? Please refer to guidelines and check (X) only the most relevant and provide relevant data where applicable and available		
	i. Loss of vegetative cover	X	
	ii. Degradation of vegetation (biomass, health, damage, age structure)	X	
	iii. Degradation of soil properties (chemical, physical and biological)	X	
	iv. Soil loss by wind / water erosion		Tons/ Hectare

	v. Loss of land by soil deposits and moving sand dunes			
	vi. Loss of above-ground carbon		Tons/ Hectare	
	vii. Loss of soil carbon		Tons/ Hectare	
	viii. Declining land productivity - based on Net Primary Productivity measure		Kg C/ha/year	
	ix. Loss of biodiversity characterized at habitat level - based on Biodiversity Intactness Index	X	Index	
	x. Loss of biodiversity characterized at species level			
	xi. Increase in invasive, harmful or less useful species			
	xii. Loss/reduced water supply (surface and ground water)			
	xiii. Loss/reduced water quality (surface and ground water)			
	xiv. Lowering of groundwater table / reduced aquifer			
	xv. Loss of wetlands and their functions			
	xvi. Increased extent and severity of flood, drought, storm damage	X		
3.c.	What are the direct causes or drivers of land degradation? Please refer to guidelines and check (X) only those that apply under each relevant category.			
	i. Soil management			
	(s1) Cultivation of highly unsuitable / vulnerable soils	X	Check (X) only those that apply	
	(s2) Missing or insufficient soil conservation / runoff and erosion control measures	X		
	(s3) Heavy machinery (including timing of heavy machinery use)			
	(s4) Tillage practice	X		
	(s5) Other (specify:_____)			
	ii. Crop and rangeland management			
	(c1) Reduction of plant cover and residues		Check (X) only those that apply	
	(c2) Inappropriate application of manure, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides and other agrochemicals or waste			
	(c3) Nutrient mining			
	(c4) Shortening of the fallow period in shifting cultivation			
	(c5) Inappropriate irrigation	X		
	(c6) Inappropriate use of water in rainfed agriculture	X		
	(c7) Bush encroachment and bush thickening			
	(c8) Occurrence and spread of weeds and invader plants			
	(c9) Other (specify:_____)			

iii. Deforestation and removal of natural vegetation		
(f1) Large-scale commercial forestry		Check (X) only those that apply
(f2) Expansion of urban / settlement areas and industry		
(f3) Conversion to agriculture	X	
(f4) Forest / grassland fires		
(f5) Road and rail construction		
(f6) Other (specify: _____)		
iv. Over-exploitation of vegetation for domestic use		
(e1) Excessive gathering of fuel wood, (local) timber, fencing materials	X	Check (X) only those that apply
(e2) Removal of fodder	X	
(e3) Other (specify: _____)		
v. Overgrazing		
(g1) Excessive numbers of livestock	X	Check (X) only those that apply
(g2) Trampling along animal paths	X	
(g3) Overgrazing and trampling around or near feeding, watering and shelter points	X	
(g4) Too long or extensive grazing periods in a specific area or camp		
(g5) Change in livestock composition	X	
(g6) Other (specify: _____)		
vi. Industrial activities and mining		
(i1) Industry		Check (X) only those that apply
(i2) Mining		
(i3) Waste deposition		
(i4) Others (specify)		
vii. Urbanisation and infrastructure development		
(u1) Settlements and roads		Check (X) only those that apply
(u2) (Urban) recreation		
(u3) Other (specify: _____)		
viii. Discharges from		
(p1) Sanitary sewage disposal		Check (X) only those that apply
(p2) Waste water discharge		
(p3) Excessive runoff		
(p4) Poor and insufficient infrastructure to deal with urban waste		

(p5) Other (specify:_____)	
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ix. Release of airborne pollutants leading to		
(q1) Contamination of vegetation/ crops and soil		Check (X) only those that apply
(q2) Contamination of surface and ground water resources:		
(q3) Other (specify: _____)		
x. Disturbance of the water cycle leading to		
(w1) Lower infiltration rates / increased surface runoff		
(w2) Other (specify: _____)		
xi. Over-abstraction / excessive withdrawal of water		
(o1) Irrigation		Check (X) only those that apply
(o2) Industrial use		
(o3) Domestic use		
(o4) Mining activities		
(o5) Decreasing water use efficiency	X	
(o6) Other (specify: _____)		
xii. Natural causes		
(n1) Change in temperature		Check (X) only those that apply
(n2) Change of seasonal rainfall	X	
(n3) Heavy/extreme rainfall (intensity and amounts)	X	
(n4) Windstorms / dust storms		
(n5) Floods		
(n6) Droughts		
(n7) Topography		
(n8) Other (specify: _____)		

3.d.	What are the indirect drivers/causes of land degradation? Indicate (X) only those that apply		
	i. Population pressure	X	Check (X) only those that apply
	ii. Consumption pattern and individual demand	X	
	iii. Land Tenure	X	
	iv. Poverty	X	
	v. Labour availability	X	
	vi. Inputs and infrastructure		
	vii. Education, awareness raising and access to knowledge and support services and loss of knowledge	X	
	viii. War and conflict		
	ix. Governance, institutions and politics	X	
	x. Other (specify: _____)		
4. What are the effects of land degradation on ecosystem services? Please refer to the guidelines for description of the impacts. Select all that apply and then use rating provided below to indicate nature of the impact.			
1: High negative effect: land degradation contributes negatively (more than 50%) to changes in ES 2: Negative effect: land degradation contributes negatively (10-50%) to changes in ES 3: Little or no effect: contribution of land degradation to changes in ES is modest or negligible (0-10%) 4: Positive effect: land degradation contributes positively (10-50%) to the changes in ES 5: High positive effect: land degradation contributes positively (more than 50%) to changes in ES.			
	a. Productive services		
	(P1) Production (of animal / plant quantity and quality including biomass for energy) and risk		Rating
	(P2) Clean water supply for human, animal and plant consumption		
	(P3) Land availability (area of land for production per person)	2	
	(P4) Other (specify: _____)		
	b. Water services		
	(E1) Regulation of excessive water such as excessive rains, storms, floods	2	Rating
	(E2) Regulation of scarce water and its availability		

c. Soil services		
(E3) Organic matter status		Rating
(E4) Soil cover	2	
(E5) Soil structure surface and subsoil affecting infiltration, water and nutrient holding capacity	1	
(E6) Nutrient cycle (N, P, K) and the carbon cycle (C)		
(E7) Soil formation (including wind-deposited soils)		
d. Biodiversity		
(E8) Biodiversity (specify:_____)		Rating
e. Climate services		
(E9) Greenhouse gas emission (CO2, methane)	3	Rating
(E10) (micro)-climate (wind, shade, temperature, humidity)	1	
(E11) Others (specify)		
f. Socio-cultural services / human well-being and indicators		
(S1) Spiritual, aesthetic, cultural landscape and heritage values, recreation and tourism,		Rating
(S2) Education and knowledge (including indigenous knowledge)		
(S3) Conflict resolution		
(S4) Food & livelihood security and poverty	2	
(S5) Health	3	
(S6) Net income	3	
(S7) Protection / damage of private and public infrastructure		
(S8) Marketing opportunities		
(S9) Others (specify)		

5. Measurable global environmental benefits in the project target area		
a. Land cover		
i. Vegetative cover	7,500	Hectares
ii. Biomass - Net Primary Productivity (NPP)		Kg C/ha/year
iii. Tree density		m3/ha
b. Avoided emissions		
i. Carbon stocks	3.6	Tons/Hectare
ii. Other GHG gases		Tons CO2 e/ Ha
c. Carbon sequestration		
i. Above ground biomass		Tons CO2 e/ Ha
ii. Soil Carbon		Tons CO2 e/ Ha
d. Biodiversity conservation		
i. Ecosystem status e.g. Biodiversity intactness index; sustained systems diversity		Index
ii. Habitat protected		Hectares
iii. Conservation status of target species		Percent Change
e. Surface and groundwater resources		
i. Improved irrigation flow -land area		Hectares
ii. Improved/increased water availability - land area		Hectares
6. Development benefits in the project target area		
a. Productivity of crops (main crop only)	1.76	Tons/Hectare
b. Livestock productivity	6,222,762	Heads
c. Average annual income from crop and livestock production	340	US\$
d. Average annual household income from forest and tree products - \$\$ value	164.61	US\$



PART II – PROJECT OUTCOMES AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

1. Outcome Monitoring			
LDFA Objectives and Outcomes	Indicators and Measures		Notes/Units
LD1 – Ecosystem services in production landscapes (agriculture, rangeland)			
i. An enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector	Agriculture Policy		Score - See "Score Guide" Tab
	Agricultural policies incorporating smallholder and community tenure security		Number
	Land tenure security		Score - See "Score Guide" Tab
ii. Improved agricultural management	Sustained agricultural productivity	2	Score - See "Score Guide" Tab
	Agriculture policies incorporating smallholder and community tenure security	2	Number
	Community vulnerability	3	Score - See "Score Guide" Tab
iii. Sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems	Land area of production systems with increased vegetation cover	0	Hectares
	Land area under diversified production	0	Hectares
iv. Increased investments in SLM	1. Direct payments or PES schemes		US\$
	2. Small credit schemes		US\$
	3. Voluntary carbon market		US\$
	4. Eco-labeling, certification schemes		US\$
	4. Eco-labeling, certification schemes		

LD2 – Ecosystem services in forest landscapes				-
i. An enhanced enabling environment within the forest sector in dryland dominated countries	Forestry Policy		Score - See "Score Guide" Tab	
	Forestry policies incorporating smallholder and community tenure security		Number	
ii. Improved forest management in drylands	Provide total area under SFM by forest ownership			
	1. Community		Hectares	
	2. Private		Hectares	
	3. Government		Hectares	
	Provide total spatial coverage of SFM practices and technologies and check (X) on all that apply in the list below		Hectares	
	1. Best Management Practices/Reduced Impact Logging		Check (X) only those that apply	
	2. Biodiversity conservation			
	3. Forest protection			
	4. Management planning and multiscale land-use planning			
	5. Participatory forestry			
	6. Sustained timber and NTFP production			
iii. Sustained flow of services in forest ecosystems in drylands	Forested area		Hectares	
	Forest cover in project area (%)		Percent	
	Standing volume / hectare forested area		M ³ /Hectare	
iv. Increased investments in SFM	1. Direct payments or PES schemes		US\$	
	2. Small credit schemes		US\$	
	3. Voluntary carbon market		US\$	
	4. Eco-labeling, certification schemes		US\$	
LD3 – SLM in wider landscapes (integrated management)				-
i. Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management	Framework strengthening INRM	3	Score - See "Score Guide" Tab	
	Integrated land management plans	1	Number	
	Capacity strengthening	1	Score - See "Score Guide" Tab	
ii. Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities	Spatial coverage of integrated natural resource management practices in wider landscapes	0	Hectares	
	Indicate number of INRM tools and methodologies introduced and list at most three below	0	Number	
			List	

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iii. Increased investments in integrated landscape management	1. Direct payments or PES schemes	N/A	US\$
	2. Small credit schemes	N/A	US\$
	3. Voluntary carbon market	N/A	US\$
	4. Eco-labeling, certification schemes	N/A	US\$
LD4 – Adaptive management and SLM learning			
i. Increased capacities of countries to fulfill obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD.	Will the project contribute to UNCCD reporting by country? Mark X Yes No		
	Select the UNCCD 10-year Strategy Objective(s) to be directly addressed by project and describe nature of contribution:		
	<i>SO1 To improve the living conditions of affected communities</i>		
	<i>SO2 To improve the conditions of affected ecosystems</i>		
	<i>SO3 To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD</i>		
	<i>SO4 To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors</i>		
	Select Operational Objective(s) from the UNCCD 10-year Strategy to be directly supported by the project and describe nature of support.		
	1. Advocacy, awareness raising and education		
	2. Policy framework		
	3. Science, technology and knowledge		
	ii. Improved GEF portfolio monitoring using new and adapted tools and methodologies	Indicate contributions to be made by the project on the following:	
1. Knowledge management websites			Number
2. Exchange workshops			Number
3. Knowledge management networks			Number
4. Monitoring tools/systems established for			
<i>a) Land Degradation Trends</i>		Number	
<i>b) Environment and Development Benefits</i>		Number	
2. Co-financing from sectors			
i. Agriculture	1,694,847	US\$	
ii. Livestock		US\$	
iii. Forestry	1,204,303	US\$	
iv. Water		US\$	
v. Energy (hydropower)		US\$	
vi. Climate change mitigation (biofuel, bionergy, carbon offsets)		US\$	

vii.Climate change adaptation		US\$
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3. Knowledge application

a. Knowledge resources utilized from GEF-financed targeted research (**describe**)

i. Data	
ii. Tools and Methodologies	<p>Knowledge resources utilized by the project include:</p> <p>Output 1.1.1 - Innovative climate-smart, irrigated, terraced agriculture (SALT technology) implemented in at least 200 hectares (ha) of agricultural land within the 4 Churia districts to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability on steep slopes</p> <p>Output 1.1.2 - Mixed-cropping implemented in at least 200 hectares (ha) of agricultural land within the 4 districts to increase soil fertility and reduce climate vulnerability</p> <p>Output 1.1.3 - Water collection and storage, from uphill sources and rainwater, introduced at 20 storage points across at least 200 hectares (ha) within the 4 districts for controlled irrigation of terraced agricultural fields on sloping lands to reduce erosion and climate vulnerability</p> <p>Output 1.1.4 - Bio-engineering introduced in at least 6 sites across 400 hectares (ha) in 3 districts to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and restore productivity in heavily degraded areas</p> <p>Output 1.2.2 - Productive cattle breeds introduced, stall feeding implemented, and native fodder and forage grass promoted in at least 6 sites across 1,500 hectares (ha) in 3 districts</p>
iii. Best Practices	

b. Knowledge resources contributed to focal area learning objectives (**describe**)

i. Data	
ii. Tools and Methodologies	

iii. Best Practices

Knowledge resources contributing to Land Degradation focal area learning objectives by the project include:

Output 1.2.4 - Convene at least 20 community training events to encourage consolidated land management to prevent land fragmentation and encourage efficient and productive agricultural practices

Output 1.2.6 - Build capacity within the local communities and government extension services to implement and sustain these practices, monitor the outcomes, and enhance knowledge transfer for decision support

Output 2.1.3 - Alternative livelihood opportunities of at least 600 households in the 4 districts are supported with the promotion of alternative livelihoods based on sustainable use of forest-based resources

Output 2.1.4 - At least 2 workshops held to disseminate and support local authorities in policy implementation related to community, collaborative and leasehold forestry programs to enhance the engagement of communities in restoration of degraded forest lands

4. Knowledge contribution as global public goods

a. Knowledge resources and products (Describe and list under each category)

i. Publications	The project aims to produce informational, educational, and communication materials on sustainable land management disseminated in at least 24 awareness programs and media interactions in 4 districts (Output 3.1.7)
ii. Tools and Methodologies	
iii. Best practice guidelines	

b. Knowledge dissemination (Describe)

i. Websites	
ii. Workshops	Knowledge dissemination will be achieved through the following project expected outputs: Output 1.2.4 - Convene at least 20 community training events to encourage consolidated land management to prevent land fragmentation and encourage efficient and productive agricultural practices Output 2.1.4 - At least 2 workshops held to disseminate and support local authorities in policy implementation related to community, collaborative and leasehold forestry programs to enhance the engagement of communities in restoration of degraded forest lands
iii. Conferences and seminars	
iv. Networks	

5. SLM Learning

a. Describe how and what the project will contribute toward a framework and tools for linking the measurement of GEBs at project level to impacts across multiple scales.

This project will provide important environmental benefits to the Churia Range and communities, but the outcomes and lessons learnt will extend to communities in the Terai, across Nepal, and the globe. The region harbors several protected areas with iconic species, including Bengal tigers and Asian elephants. These species are important tourism draws from around the globe, and contribute significantly to the local and national economy. The Churia Range represents the source of ecosystem services that sustain both the species and the tourism industry. Further, addressing land degradation in the Churia will have wider, regional implications as sustained water flows from the Himalayas also serve the people in the Terai and the hundreds of millions of people downstream in the Ganges River basin

b. Describe how the project will increase understanding of multiple benefits from integrated management of landscape mosaics, and mixed agricultural and forest ecosystems.

The project's impact will be felt beyond the benefits of any one single sector. By building capacity at both the community and technical ministry level under a single project focus in a targeted area, the project itself is a demonstration in integrated land management, including the agriculture, forest, and land sectors. Specifically, Outputs 1.2.4 and 2.1.4 aim to strengthen capacity within the targeted areas via training events and workshops. Additional funding directly to communities will ensure opportunities for innovative practices demonstrated in Outputs 1.2.4, 1.2.6, 2.1.3, and 2.1.4, are adopted by a wider audience and disseminated throughout neighboring communities.

Appendix 19: Stakeholder Consultations

Consultation Meeting with Stakeholders/Communities/IPs for GEF Churia Project

25 – 30 Jan 2013

District Forest Office, Chandra Nigahapur, Rautahat

26 Jan 2013

Participants:

Representatives from MoLRM, MoAD, MoSTE and MFSC, and WWF Nepal, DFO – Rautahat, DAO – Rautahat, District Livestock Office, representatives from CFUGs.

Challenges and Issues:

- Rautahat used to have high soil productivity before (e.g. *Masuro* plantation). Now the production has gone down. It is due to the encroachment and degradation in Chure. Now they are distributing land certificate to landless. The years long insurgency increased the encroachment in Chure and its foothills.
- There are instances of encroachment occupying 4 *Katta* to 15 *Katta*. But, 15 *Katta* is producing only 5-7 *maan* maize and their goats are feral in the forest. The only way is to shift the encroachers from the area.
- Bagmati, Chandani and Bakia rivers are turning the area into desert.
- The engineering structures caused problems in natural resources. There are unmanaged irrigation systems and are diverting the water flow (channels). Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Irrigation and Ministry of Road Transport are responsible. This is also gradually degrading Chure.
- In the local level consultation, it was observed that people were willing to shift if they are given the employment. They can later be moved to market centers. They are currently residing in Chure due to lack of livelihood opportunities. If they can be shifted, Chure naturally returns to its resilient state.
- Voluntaar area and Arun Basti area are occupied by landless people.
- Lack of government policy is the main problem. Similarly, there is the lack of follow up by the government. The concerned commission provides report every year but it lacks the demarcation on the timeline of the settlements (year of landless). There are land mafias active in the controlling the land in the lower areas. The areas are very productive.
- There are 96 VDCs in Rautahat and 10 VDCs touch the forest areas.
- There is subsistence agriculture, and unsustainable timber and fuelwood extraction.
- The extraction of sand and boulders is massive. There are 3 crusher industries active in Bagmati area within the 600 m range of Chure. 5/6 excavators are currently active in the area.
- Local Self – Governance Act provides DDC the right to use the resources. EIA/IEE recommended 300,000 cubic meter is the maximum extraction of sand and boulders in a year from Bagmati area but there is no follow up by DDC. It is easily extracted in two months. The crusher industries should be judiciously managed.
- There are numerous unmanaged roads under construction. SDC is constructing road from Karmaiya, Sarlahi. There is the massive timber felling during road construction. High extension line is planned in Churebelt and will cover around 700 ha whereas the lower area would be covered by the rail construction. On the other hand, Bagmati area and Bakai area would fall under the international airport construction.
- 600 HHs were settled by clearing forest in Bagmati. In the past, Rangpur was settled by Hem Malla; however, both the areas are equally worse/degraded (old and new).

- President's Chure Program – more than 60% of its amount in the forest is used in plantation.
- Land certification should be avoided in the fluid situation of the government. But the area can be given in lease for 5 years, 10 years and 15 years by promoting horticulture, production forest. If livelihood is improved, people can be gradually shifted from Chure.
- People in Chure hold the phobia that they do not hold the land and government can chase them anytime. So, they are concerned only with the extraction of natural resources. Some assurance or guarantee could be generated within them and bring them into the conservation and livelihood programs. E.g. bamboo plantation for landslide control and income generation.
- At first, few HHs encroach and settle. They will call more HHs for security or assurance. The DFO and DDC/VDC should keep close eye on the situation rather than focusing on the evicting later once the problem become worse.
- There is a tussle in between the people living in Terai and in Chure. People living in lowland Terai advocates not to issue land certificate to the Chure people whereas there is high population in Chure.
- There are instances where the resettled people returned to Chure as they could not get enough land for survival in other areas including Terai. Similarly, there is the migration from the southern area of Makawanpur in Chure. Their subsistence agriculture can sustain up to 6 months.
- There is not much activities in Gaindatar from District Agriculture and District Livestock offices. But, District Livestock kicked-off stall feeding. They realized increased productivity. Fodder grass was promoted in the *bari* land.

Way Forward:

- Zonation is needed focusing on livelihoods e.g. horticulture.
- Production forest can be promoted in private lands in Amlekhgunj, commercial agriculture activities.
- Ministry for Industry (for wood apple and MAPs/NTFPs) and Local Government Agencies (DDC) should also be brought into the mechanism.
- There is a need for stringent follow-up and monitoring mechanism.
- There is a need for proper record keeping of the landless populace. There are instances where a father holds 3 bigha land whereas his son acquires land in guise of landless.
- Package program is needed for the communities thereby, addressing their needs.
- The concept of production forest should be integrated in the livelihood related activities.
- Maize cultivation is the main enterprise and illiteracy is high in Gaindatar. They youth then go to pull ricksaw. There should be a gradual shift in their practice. Some land can be provided for cultivation and some are given for plantation.

District Development Committee (DDC) Office, Birgunj

27 Jan 2013

Participants:

Representatives from MoLRM, MFSC, MoAD and MoSTE, and WWF Nepal, representatives from DDC, DLR, DAO of Parsa district

Challenges and Issues:

- President's Chure Program is underway in the district but it takes time to visibly see the result/impact in Chure.
- There is the 2069 – guideline for implementing Chure program.
- There is a need for an integrated way of program implementation so as to avoid duplication.

- Bangeria Khola¹ catchment work is carried out by DSCO with greenery promotion in lower belt to protect from river. Rhizomes are brought from Jhapa.
- There is an issue of improved hybrid stock of livestock versus the local breed. Artificial insemination (AI) can be done in local breed.
- The program is implemented with the ongoing activities of the ministries.
- There is a huge political pressure.
- First land reform was brought some 50 years back but the tenure rights have not yet been received. MoLRM is not been able to implement or establish such tenure rights.
- Livestock has central role to play in Chure areas. Biogas can be another option. It is first trialed in Bara district. This is focused for marginal farmers in Ratanpur areas. Stall feeding is being promoted but there is no open space for fodder grass and those areas are gradually encroached.
- There is the lack of budget for implementation of livelihoods related activities. So there is the need for integrated budget for such programs.
- In Chure, there are two types of residents – with certification and without land certification. The CF are also zoned in Chure.
- There is the government decision to relocate the people from Chure. Government states to remove the weakly/loosely built houses followed by the concrete ones. But there local political pressure averts the action.
- There is an unsustainable sand and gravel extraction. It is exacerbated by the sectoral tussle in between local development agency and forestry office.
- Haphazard settlement in Chure occurred given the political fluidity in the country and they are practicing intensified and unsustainable use of traditional agriculture practices in the slope lands. People are not paying heed to the suggestions for good agriculture practices.
- Open grazing is another grave issue in Chure. Open grazing is prevalent in Amlekhgunj.
- Similarly, there is unsustainable extraction of sand and boulder extraction in nearby areas. It is carried out even in the areas near to the dykes and appropriate agencies are not taking proper action to control or penalize them.
- There is an issue of uncontrolled road construction in Chure without appropriate environmental impact assessment.
- Stall feeding is a bit tough in this area as the access to forest is far and they do not plant fodder in their cultivable land in lieu of staple crops.

Way Forward:

- The policy should clearly demarcate the forest area in Chure and find out the degraded areas for leasehold forestry program. But, which one is the degraded forest areas!
- The encroachers can be brought under committees such as Cooperative. Later, alternative livelihoods and income generation activities can be provided to those people.
- Improved breed of livestock can be promoted. Value chain should also be considered such as marketing for milk. The other end for milk business in the value chain is still deficient.
- Model sites in Bara can be developed. Encroachment is removed and plantation is done. But it is a losing battle. So, leasehold forestry program can be implemented by providing Sati Saal. Similarly, Khair and Sisoo should be distributed in the flood prone areas.
- Demonstration plots for agriculture activities should be developed which includes organic farming and similar other good practices.
- Resettlement program from Chure can be carried out based on our previous experiences such as Rambhoribhatta, Padampur etc. This is a model project so we can try out resettlement and regeneration of the area.

- There is a need for some clarity upon demarcating Chure if it entails hills, foothills, doon valleys, and lower impacted areas. The program can support the activities such as conservation pond, rain water harvesting, river training, flood control, wetland improvement and biodiversity conservation and livelihoods opportunities, enrichment plantation in the hills, and wasteland rehabilitation, strip plantation, agro forestry/farm forestry etc.

District Land Revenue Office, Hetauda

27 Jan 2013

Participants:

Representatives from MoRLM, MoFSC, MoSTE, MoAD, and WWF Nepal, representatives from DSCO, DADO, DFO, District Land Survey, District Livestock Office

Challenges and Issues, and Way Forward:

- The causes of Chure degradation are migration, forest degradation, grazing, unplanned roads, lack of youth in villages, encroachment, lack of follow up or monitoring in slope land agriculture. There is a challenge with the villages or settlements which are there for the last 30-40 years and they are provided with electricity and drinking water facility by the concerned offices.
- There are also 1-2 HHs scattered in Chure.
- There is a sheer lack of coordination amongst DDC with DFO and Park.
- There is a conflict of Acts, i.e. Local Self – Governance Act and Forest Act. Conflict stems out in the sand and gravel extraction.
- Shifting cultivation is there especially with Chepang community.
- Dhihal and Chatiban VDCs and Phaparbari VDC are the affected areas. There is an encroachment due to the migration of people from Makawanpur.
- It is being observed that people are not much interested in watershed management (flood/erosion control) activities.
- It is shown that grazing control can reduce the degradation by 60% in Chure.
- Encroachment should also be reduced and forest fire should be controlled.
- Community Forest concept should be continued and leasehold forestry for people falling below the poverty line.
- Stall feeding should be promoted. Farmers are gradually getting rid of the unproductive cattle.
- There is a need to promote fodder plantation and plantation for flood control.
- Demonstration agriculture technologies plot should be established with interventions such as SALT, zero tillage and community cultivation and cooperative.
- President's Chure Program is being implemented in the district but the budget is in decreasing order.

Handi Khola, Parsa Wildlife Reserve and Buffer zone

28 Jan 2013

Participants:

Representatives from MoRLM, MoFSC, MoAD, and WWF Nepal, chairperson of the BZMC and members of the Lokpriya BZUC

Challenges and Issues, and Way Forward:

- Handi Khola presents a good example of flood protection and Chure restoration.
- Lokpriya BZUC was declared in 2062 BS and TAL is providing support since last 4-5 years.
- Handi Khola VDC entails three rivulets – Bahuni Khola, Dardara Khola and Bandh Khola. 10 HHs were washed away in the flood in Bahuni Khola in 2057 BS.
- In Bahuni Khola, check dams are constructed for flood protection and water tank is constructed for drinking water purpose. The water flow is increasing and the good water recharge is observed.
- Chepang communities dwell in the forests in Chure. They were supported with money to buy seeds and cultivate ginger. It is a fast-cash and they are currently into vegetable farming such as tomato and cauliflower. NEST from Pokhara provided them the technical knowledge. Now the Chepang communities advocate for forest protection.
- Communities should be empowered through amendments in policies and rules. This should be monitored by the government.
- There is a need to participate and empower local communities. The communities should be given the technical inputs in agriculture with live demonstration (e.g. manure from the urine from goats).
- IGA should be promoted through endowment and/or revolving funds.
- There is a need to increase the endowment fund so as to uplift their living status. Bamboo, broom grass, turmeric, ginger and yam cultivation should be induced and the subsequent market linkage should be supported. Meanwhile, they should be involved for forest conservation. They are voluntarily working for flood protection (e.g. plantation) and Chure protection at large.
- The endowment fund should be sustainably managed.
- The local assets should also be gradually transformed such as, improved cattle in lieu of current practices of rearing large herd of unproductive cattle. They should be directed towards milk production, fodder grass plantation.
- Model sites should be developed.

PABZ Office, Sauraha, Chitwan

28 Jan 2013

Participants:

Representatives from MoRLM, MoFSC, MoAD, and WWF Nepal, and staff from PABZ

Discussion:

- Mr. Shiv R Bhatta, Coordinator, WWF Nepal presented on TAL and its working modality.
- There is a need to bring DDC in the loop. In Chitwan, Chepang communities reside in the upper area and are imparting impacts to Chure. Whereas, the lower area is marred with sand and boulder extraction.
- Leasehold forestry program is implemented for the last 40 years. Some modifications may be required. Currently, they plant and harvest in 10 years in leasehold forestry program. This in turn denudes the area again.

- Encroachment is there in the leasehold forests in Lothar and Manohari areas. They are also planting rice in some areas provided for leasehold forestry.
- Kusum Khola area in Madi is an affected area in Chure. In Badar side, there are more than 1,000 HHs. It occurred since 8-9 years back.
- Integrated programs are needed entailing cooperative and vegetable farming.
- Community should be at center in any program implementation.

District Land Revenue Office, Nawalparasi

30 Jan 2013

Participants:

Representatives from MoRLM, MoFSC, MoAD, and WWF Nepal, and representatives from DSCO, DADO, DFO, District Land Survey, District Livestock Office, DDC

Challenges and Issues:

- In Nawalparasi, there is an encroachment in guise of school construction.
- In the northern part, shifting cultivation is practiced, so some leasehold forestry programs are being implemented to discourage the shifting cultivation.
- In the district, 141 CF are handed over to the community.
- President's Chure Program is being implemented in the district by DFO and DSCO. It is currently underway in Jharai Khola up to the border to India. Some of the activities are forest fire control, nursery, grazing control and harvesting of NTFPs. There is a need to bring more IGA related activities.
- A sector plan is prepared with help of LFP. It is stated that only dried and fallen twigs can be extracted from the CFs and it was opposed by CF and FECOFUN. The members/community are requesting to get the permission to extract the wood which can no longer yield.
- There is a confusion if Nawalparasi entails part of Chure¹ and the unrelenting issue of extracting woods from CFs.
- MoFSC clearly states that the President's Chure Program should be implemented jointly by district line agencies and it has marked rivulets (Kholas) to implement the activities. They are Jharai Khola, Binai Khola.
- District Agriculture Office is implementing vegetable farming in flooded areas in Bhurai Khola with the help from President's Chure Program.
- District Livestock Office stated that goat rearing and open grazing issues are currently addressed. Napier and Stylo fodder grasses are planted in fallow areas of CFs. Cow farm is supported and stall feeding is practiced in most of them. Lately, grass production is increasing in CFs.
- The improved fodder in the district is probably one of the best in Nepal. Grass is planted in 46 ha area and it controlled erosion and encroachment. Production is high. Lately, 22,000 lit of milk is produced in single VDC. There is a good coordination in between DFO and District Livestock Office. Regeneration is practiced in degraded areas.
- Leasehold forestry and livestock program is being implemented in Chure(Hopse Kot areas) by DFO, District Agriculture and Livestock Offices. They were once awarded for their work. Erosion is controlled and IGA is implemented. This is implemented in Gaindakot areas, too.
- 11 years back, the feed deficit in Nawalparasi was 29% but now it is reduced to 11%. It is achieved through improved breed of cattle and fodder plantation etc.
- DDC is currently permitting sand and stone extraction after IEE/EIA but it lacks monitoring. 50% of the cash is ploughed back to corresponding VDC. At some instances, it is imperative to extract some of the stones and

boulders so the flood does not enter village. But, there is an excessive extraction of sand and boulder most of the times. They have brought the provision of roadside plantation to VDC and the contractor. They expressed that maps are needed to identify the type of land while granting land to schools and communal purposes. Maps are needed in planning process. Moreover, land registration is being done by VDC or municipality which is not legal at all. At the same time, water and electricity is being provided to those settlements.

Way forward:

- There is a need for implementation of National Land Use Policy – 2069 and the zoning concept.
- There is a need to review the current rules and regulations in light of Chure. In Chure, sloping land agriculture should be practiced. DSCO is implementing good agriculture practices and water resources protection in the areas. Whereas, on the other hand, DFO is adamant in evicting the unregistered settlements. Besides, water and electricity is provided to the illegal (encroached) settlements. There are ca. 7,000 ha area encroached by schools, campus and football ground construction. 50% problem is solved once there is a good coordination amongst district line agencies.
- It is too early to seek the tangible results of President's Chure Program as it takes at least 5 years to obtain the results of Chure conservation and watershed management. So, the objectives of any project in Chure should be of long-term. The project can be developed based on the upstream-downstream linkage, e.g. in Chandi Khola. Similarly, breadth of the river in then and now scenario in 10 years can be observed. If watershed condition upstream is poor, the breadth (span) of the river increases. Chure is recharging the groundwater of Terai.
- The water table of Terai is currently going down. The wells have to be inserted deeper than 10 years back. It is closely knitted with food deficiency. The then and now scenario or results should be studied. However, human welfare should be the central.

Team Members:

1. Mr. Krishna B Raut, MoLRM
2. Mr. Gokarna M Duwadee, MoSTE
3. Mr. Nab Raj Subedi, MoLRM
4. Mr. Mahendra N Poudel, MoAD
5. Mr. Kala Nidhi Poudel, MoLRM
6. Mr. Bishnu Gyawali, MoFSC
7. Mr. Shiv R Bhatta, WWF Nepal
8. Mr. Bijan GURUNG, WWF Nepal
9. Mr. Bhaskar Chaudary, WWF Nepal (joined in field)

Field Sites visited:

1. Ratanpur area, Bara district
2. Gaindatar area, Rautahat district
3. Nirmal Basti area, Parsa district
4. Handi Khola area, Makawanpur district (en route Lothar area, Chitwan district)
5. Tribeni area, Nawalparasi district (en route Daunne area, Nawalparasi district)

Appendix 20: Report on Assessment of High-Risk Project Sites

Report

On

Assessments of High-Risk Project Sites

Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

By: Kanta Singh

SIA Consultant

1. Introduction:

Social impact assessment on “Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal” from gender and social context found that the communities were not consulted during the designing of the project. The project was designed based on the consultation at the district level mainly with the institutions and the CBOs. The ESIA coordinator further recommended based on SIA report to undertake consultations with the community members such as women, poor, dalit and the indigenous members who are residing in the Churia range to identify the potential impact of the GEF project on the vulnerable communities such as women, poor, dalit and indigenous people. As per the recommendation of the ESIA coordinator, the field consultations were undertaken from 22 July – 24 July 2013. For detail refer field schedule, Annex 1. The consultations were coordinated and managed by the staff of WWF Nepal and the representative of the ministry (Ministry of Land Reform and Management). The SIA consultant facilitated the consultation meetings through focus group discussions with the community members.

The field consultations were organized in three districts out of proposed four project districts. The districts and settlement of the consultation are as:

SN	District	Settlement	Type of FGD
01	Makwanpur	Handikhola	Mixed indigenous community
02	Bara	Ratanpur	Women community members
03	Rautahat	Gaindatar	Mixed community members

2. Objective of the Field Consultation:

The main objective of the field consultation was to conduct on-site assessments of the high-risk project sites or vulnerable communities from gender and social context to identify needs and priorities and potential impacts of the GEF project on poor, women, dalit and indigenous community members.

3. Justifications of the field consultations:

The review of the project document from gender and social context identified that the consultation with the target beneficiaries' at the community level was missing. As per the requirement of WWF and GEF and based on the recommendation of SIA, the consultations were undertaken to see that the GEF project addresses the needs of women, poor, dalit and indigenous peoples by identifying their needs and priority and potential impacts of the project on their daily livelihood.

4. Methodology:

The consultations were undertaken mainly by following the proposed methodology:

- (i) Site selection: In-depth discussion with relevant WWF staffs were undertaken to finalize the field site for consultation. The field site consultation was identified based on the number of criteria developed. Such as:
 - The proposed project implementation site;
 - Indigenous community settlement;
 - Settlement that are vulnerable in terms of Churia degradation i.e. high risk areas; and
 - Settlement that is accessible to travel in the peak monsoon period.
- (ii) Field Checklist: Checklist was developed by the consultant and was finalized with suggestions and comments from ESIA consultant. The Checklist was shared with the field team for easy understanding in leading the discussion/consultations with the community. For detail please refer Annex 2 for field checklist.
- (iii) Field consultation process: Field consultation was undertaken in a participatory manner. The WWF staff and the representative of the ministry introduced the project and its objective to the community members and reassured that further consultation to incorporate their views, issues and concerns would be undertaken once the project is approved. The communities would be consulted throughout the project implementation period for further improvement through their participation.
- (iv) Three settlements in three districts were visited for field consultations. The consultations were undertaken in the community with concerned members such as women, poor, dalit and the indigenous community members. The consultation was organized using PRA tool – Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The consultation was held separately with three groups of community members consisting of (a) indigenous community; (b) mixed community; and (c) women separately to understand their specific issues and concerns. A total of 99 community members were consulted out of which 55.5% (55) consisted of women participants. For detail refer list of participants in Annex 3.
- (v) **Key informant discussion:** Key persons who had first settled in the community and other resource persons who are familiar with Churia issues and concerns were interviewed to understand their concerns and issues. Such as the chair of the Churia committee, manager of the TAL project in Makwanpur, the first settler of the Ratanpur, community health

worker, school teachers in Bara district and school teachers and local elite in Gaidatar in Rautahat district.

- (vi) **Field findings discussion:** In the end of the day the field, findings were discussed with the team for cross-verification and understanding of the issues and concerns of the consultation meeting.

5. Consultation findings:

A total of 99 community members from the remote settlement of the proposed project areas in the three districts (Makwanpur, Bara and Rautahat) were met by the consultation team. The project sites where the field consultation was undertaken are located inside the Churia forest and in the foot hill of the Churia range. The settlement is inhabited by migrant from different districts and surrounding areas. The settlement consists of the dalits, indigenous people such as Chepangs, Bankariyas, and Tamangs who largely depends on forest resources for their livelihoods.

Key findings in all three settlements of the three districts are similar but each community has specific issues and concerns that have impact on their livelihoods, equitable distribution of resources, livestock keeping and land ownership. Similarities of the findings are as:

- The inhabitants are migrants who have migrated on their own or are settled by the State in the Churia forest who were affected by natural calamity (flood, landslide etc);
- The settlers are from the nearby surrounding hill districts (Chitwan, Tanahu and Makwanpur) other hilly district (Lalitpur, Kavre, Ramechhap, Udaypur) who have migrated to Churia range and has been living here for nearly 5 decades to 3 year back;
- The old settlers had cleared the Churia forest for settlement and cultivation for their livelihood and the new settlers have negotiated to purchase the land and settled in the area;
- The settlers live in the settlement/cluster that consists of their own caste for social security. The poor, dalit and indigenous community live in disaster prone land;
- All of them practices subsistence agriculture and livestock keeping for their livelihoods;
- All of them chiefly depend on the existing forest resources for their livelihood. The settlers get their basic necessities from the forest such as timber for house construction, fuel wood for cooking, grass, fodder for livestock, edible nuts and fruits, water etc;
- Some have land certificates and owns the land, some have temporary land certificate due to which they are not able to access financial resources from the formal sector as

- they cannot pawn the land, where as some have no land certificate due to frequent changes in the government and the landless committee formed to look after the issue;
- Lack of opportunity for employment and skill for enterprises, majority of the youth have migrated outside the country for employment;
 - The local people have to go far away to collect the forest resources and water that have added burden to women as they need to travel far away to access such resources;
 - Frequent landslides and flood has widened the river courses that have converted agriculture land (down hill) of Churia into river bed that has further compelled the settlers to clear the forest for cultivation. This has decreased water source for drinking and irrigation purpose;
 - All three settlements have forest management programme such as community forestry and majority of the participants are the members of the CFUGs. Some of the households are not included in the CFUGs as it has its own rules and regulations;
 - All of the participants of the group have access to forest resources but some of them said that resources are not adequate to meet their requirements so they go to for resources in the government forests;
 - All of the participants agreed that due to certain restriction imposed by the community forestry programme such as restriction on grazing livestock freely in the forest has hampered in their livelihood as now they are forced to keep less livestock due to which their income has decreased.

Although there are similar issues and concerns in all three settlements that was consulted but there are specific issues and concerns of women, men, dalit and the indigenous community that have hampered in their development and livelihood improvement. This has pushed them further into the vicious circle of poverty. The specific issues are discussed separately for women, men, dalit and indigenous members are as:

Women's issue:

Heavy work load: Women during the consultation reported that their day starts early in the morning from 4 or 5 am and ends late night around 10 pm. This is mainly as they are responsible for collecting water, fuel wood, fodder and other necessary forest products for household use as well as for income by selling the forest products such as fruits, vegetable, nuts and roots that is time consuming. Further, due to exclusion of the poor, dalit and indigenous community they are compelled to travel far away to access resources like drinking water etc. See box below:

Ms. Santa Maya Bankariya, lives in ward number 7, of Hadikhola in Makwanpur district. There are total 41 households consisting of Bankariyas that is in the verge of extinction.

According to Santa Maya, all women from 41 households spend 4 hours to fetch a bucket of water as the nearest water source is 2 hours walk from their settlement and it takes them 2 additional hours to reach their home. Due to this none of them have time to invest in other development and social activities.

Scarcity of resources: They reported that due to forest degradation and due to increasing number of households they have to travel far away to access forest products and water. During the field consultation in Bara district in Ratanpur, reported that the number of household has increased from 5 household to 300 household in the settlement. This indicates that there is competition for scarce resources and women are affected the most specially the dalit and ingenious women who depends on forest resources for their daily livelihood.

Restriction on forest products: In all the three settlements where field consultation was undertaken women reported that due to forest management such as community forest management has improved the forest. However it has certain restriction such as grazing of livestock is ban in the forest. This has increased their workload as they are responsible for caring, feeding and cleaning the livestock in their home. Previously children used to graze the livestock in the forest now the burden has fallen to women. This has reduced in keeping livestock that has decreased income for women. Previously they used to have at least 10 goats and 2-3 bigger livestock now it has reduced to 3 livestock. They also reported that now there need to travel further away in the government forest to access forest products as the resources are not sufficient.

Social cultural practices: Women reported that due to the existing socio-cultural practices women has less mobility that has hindered in their development and awareness and are ignorant of their rights. As a result women have less time to participate in other social and development activities, especially for the poor women from dalit and indigenous community. During the field consultation in Gaindatar in Rautahat district, the marginalized women from the disadvantaged groups such as dalit (kami, biswakarma) and indigenous(Bankariya, Chepangs) were not actively participating in the community forest user groups (CFUG) due to lack of awareness, time and cultural practices of being dominated by the other castes and groups.

Lack of skill: Women reported that they lack skill to undertake enterprises. They can get benefited from skill enhancement based on agriculture and livestock to increase income source. They confirmed from the three sites that they lack market linkages to sell their products. They also reported that they can undertake technical work if provided with technical skill and wants to divert their skill in new enterprises.

Men's issue:

Lack of awareness: Men from marginalized communities (dalit, Chepangs, Bankariya) are less vocal compared to men of other caste groups in the settlement. They mostly work as seasonal wage earners and are exploited by the higher caste and other local elites. They live in land that is prone to disaster and less productive land.

Lack of employment opportunity: Youth and men, due to lack of opportunity, migrate to other districts and gulf countries for employment. This has increased the work burden and responsibility of women who now have to work more hours in agriculture sector. During the field consultation in Ratanpur of Bara district, women reported they now have to work in agriculture 2 hrs more in the morning as men are away. In the late afternoon and evening now they invest more time in the agriculture during the harvesting and cultivation period.

Lack of financial support: Men in Ratanpur of Bara district reported that they lack of land certificate from the government that they have occupied for long period are not able to pawn their land to take financial support to invest on productive activities.

Lack of consultation in development work: Men reported that there are number of projects/programme directed towards Churia conservation in their districts. The programs are implemented by I/NGOs who works in plantation or some other activities without local people's involvement. Due to this, such programmes have not been able to conserve Churia leading towards degradation of forest resources.

Relocation and community participation: During the field consultation all of them agree that Churia range particularly their settlement is degrading. They said that relocation of the settlement is not an issue but there should be community participation to restore Churia resources. Unless communities are mobilized in restoring the Churia range it will not be effective. Relocating the community will not solve the problem. In Gaiddatar of Rautahat district, communities living in the Churia hills were shifted/relocated in the year 1974 due to Churia degradation and the same community and other members returned back in the year 1987 and encroached the hill as they were is no specific law and rules to stop land encroachment.

Unplanned settlement: Due to unplanned settlement, communities settle in areas and clear forest for agriculture. They practice free grazing in the forest and collect forest products in an unsustainable manner leading towards desertification of land. This is mainly as there is no land policy and even if there is one and it is not properly implemented.

Dalit issue:

Caste discrimination: The dalits face high discrimination in the Tarai region due to which they have no access to existing State and other resources. They have less participation in social and development work.

Lack of employment opportunity: They have less opportunity in engaging in employment as they have less skill and financial support. They work as seasonal wage earners and depend on forest resources for their daily livelihood. Due to less availability of forest resources they have high level of poverty compared to other castes.

Participation in development and social work: Due to poverty they are not able to participate in social and development work. This has hampered in their development as they are not aware of existing services provided by the State.

Indigenous issues:

Equal access to resources: They live in settlements that are mostly prone to disasters. Due to poverty, they have less time to participate in social and development work. They are not aware of their rights and are not able to voice their opinion even if they participate in group activities due to the requirement of social inclusion. During the field consultation in Makwanpur district, the Bankariya said that they do not have access to water although they equally contributed in conserving the source. They have to walk for 4 hrs up and down to get a bucket of water.

Dependent on forest resources: Most of them have less productive agriculture land and depends primarily on forest resources for their daily livelihood. With the introduction of forest management programme, they now have to depend on other far away forest for resources. Now they have less access to grazing in forest land due to forest management. They now have less livestock to earn their income.

Exploitation by higher caste: The poor, women, indigenous peoples and Dalits are highly exploited by higher caste in accessing equitable distribution of resources as they have less time to participate in group meeting. There is a tendency of higher caste thinking that the indigenous people (Chepangs and Bankariya) have been provided with special programme from the State. Due to this their voices are mostly ignored in the meetings.

Forest management: Consultation in Hadikhola of Makwanpur district said that they are involved in leasehold forestry groups where they were able to promote income generating activities such as fishery. Now with the introduction of community forestry programme they are not allowed to take up this activity that has impact on the income earning.

Unsustainable land use and management: Forest degradation and unsustainable harvesting of NTFP has impact on the indigenous community as a result more land is cleared for cultivation purposes leading to widening of river bed in the foot hills. As a result more people from down hills and coming uphill and clearing forest in the uphill.

Issues have clearly stated that it has impact not only on the community level but it has deep rooted impact at different levels of the society.

Socially: Existing practice of caste discrimination and social exclusion in government as well as in other development work has deep impact on empowerment of dalit and indigenous people. Such issues have

disturbed the social fabrics of the society due to unhealthy competition for scarce land and forest resources.

Environmentally: There is heavy encroachment on fragile Churia hills that has resulted in environmental degradation causing landslides, floods that lead to further degrading the Churia hills.

Economically: Due to less forest resources and land degradation, people are not able to enhance their income. Further restriction by forest management programme has compelled community to reduce livestock that is considered to be one of the major sources of income in rural communities who depends on subsistence agriculture practices.

Institutionally: Women, poor, dalit and indigenous community members have less time to participate in development and social activities. Those who participate have less influence in the group due to lack of awareness and influencing capacity to act on their favor.

6. Conclusion:

The consultation in the field revealed that there is high land degradation in the Churia region that can be corrected by putting the community in the center of all development activities in the Churia. Relocation of the settlement is not an issues but land degradation can be arrested with support from the community provided with implementable and people friendly policy, strategy and laws. Different communities' members have different needs and priorities it is essential to consult the communities and involve them in the protection and conservation of their settlement. Protection and conservation should not be done in isolation but with the involvement of communities.

7. Recommendations:

Women's issue:

Work load: Women are over burden due to male migration, decreasing forest products, restriction on forest resources and free grazing in side forest due to forest management that has severe impact on women. It is therefore recommended that fast growing timber and non- timber products, fodder and forages be planted in accessible areas and in private land.

Skill enhancement: Women lack new enterprising skill to enhance their income. It is recommended that women be provided with skill to undertake enterprising activities such as agro forestry, improved livestock rearing to enhance their income.

Decision making: Women due to forestry management have their representation and participation in the various groups. It is recommended that women through affirmative action and be included in decision making position and train them for their active and meaningful participation and representation.

Men's issue:

Lack of opportunity: Men and youth due to lack of employment opportunity have migrated outside the country for income earning. It is recommended that introduce livelihood programme that diversifies from traditional income earning to enterprising activities such as agro forestry, improved farming and livestock rearing, forest based micro enterprises, skill-based microenterprises.

Unplanned settlement: It is recommended to introduce and implement government's land use policy that would encourage people to arrest forest degradation and undertake activities in a planned manner.

Land degradation: It is recommended that community be involved in arresting land degradation and not by relocating them.

Dalit's issue:

Right awareness: it is recommended that dalit be provided with awareness on their rights and use of natural resources for their benefit.

Opportunity creation: It is recommended that dalit be provided with opportunity in skill enhancement to improve their income earning source from micro enterprises and forest based enterprises and create market linkages.

Indigenous people's issue:

Equal access to resources: It is recommended to create awareness and impose actions to local community members on distribution of resources in equitable manner.

Diversify income earning opportunity: The indigenous community depends on forest resources that are fast depleting. It is recommended that fast growing species be planted so that they can continue in accessing the resources for their daily livelihood.

Inclusion of downstream: It is recommended that community and people living downstream should be involved in all stages of the project especially in decision making process, committees etc.

GEF SIA Consultation Meetings with indigenous peoples (IPs)

Field visit Schedule (21-23 July 2013)

Date	Places	Field Activities	Remarks
22 July 2013	Drive KTM-Hetauda- <i>HandiKhola</i> (Makawanpur District)	Consultation meeting at <i>HandiKhola</i> (Makwanpur) with IPs at 2-5 PM	Prem Paudel from TAL PABZ to coordinate
	Night Stay at Hetauda	Meeting with DFO	
23 July	Drive from Hetauda – <i>Ratanpur</i> (Bara District)	Meeting with Female participants at <i>Ratanpur</i> (Bara) at 10AM-12 Noon	Bhaskerji to Coordinate
23 Jul	Drive to <i>Chandranighapur</i> Night stay		
24	Drive to <i>Gaindatar</i> , (Rautahat District)	Meeting with mixed group at <i>Gaindatar</i> (Rautahat) at 10 AM-12 Noon	Bhaskerji to Coordinate
	Drive back to Kathmandu		

GEF SIA Field Consultation Checklist

Consultation District: 2 districts –(i) Makwanpur district(hill district) Hadikhola;

(ii) Bara district- Ratanpur(iii) Rautahat district- Gairatar (Tarai district).

Consultations: Community level – FGD(i) women group; (ii) mixed groups; and (iii) Indigenous Peoples group

Key area for discussion:

Social: (women, dalits, Janajati)

- Migration trend in Churia hills and its foothill area and its pressure on Churia hills resources exploitation
- Types of caste/ethnic groups of people living in Churia hills or its foothills and their dependency on Churia hills resources
- Dependency of women, Dalits, Janajati on Churia hills resources and types of resources, scale of dependency (length of time)
- Type of existing institution/groups and their membership of people living in Churia hills or its foothills;
- Existing membership and leadership status of women, Dalits, Janajatis in existing institutions
- Type of existing program/project/ activities of Gov. I/NGO to conserve Churia and their participation and affect and impact on them;
- The proposed project activities such as forest management will impose certain restriction its affect on their livelihood (restriction on collection of forest resources- NTFP);
- Plantation/ reforestation activities restriction on grazing, access to forest resources;
- Grazing site its access and impact on their livelihood;
- Affect on women, poor dalit and IPs by forest degradation and introduction of community forestry program (More time to collect forest resources that has hindered in their development, accessing from government forest);
- Encroachment pattern and extension of agriculture practices, intensified and unsustainable use of traditional agriculture practices, grazing practices;
- Unstable extraction of NTFPs it impact and consequences;

Economic (livelihood)

- Benefits: What benefit does the community received from Churia? (firewood, wood, water, fodder, gravel, sand, red or white soil, fruits vegetable, NTFP etc by women, Janajati, dalit, men;
- Direct & indirect benefits
- Long term (land improvement, availability of water) and short term (grass, fodder, NTFP etc) benefits and length of dependency on Churia hills resources;
- What difference has occurred in the situation in Churia? (Present and past) eg. forest, land, life, social, economical, reduction/increase in livestock, forest resources etc.
- What economic status of people living in Churia hills and why? (poor, mid-level and rich, Literate or illiterate etc.)
- What are economic resources of Churia hill people/community and their dependency on them?

Environment:

- Churia hills resources are improving or degrading and why ?
- Reasons for improvement, if it is improving?
- Reason for forest degradation and how in Churia hills? (frequent fire, heavy grazing, smuggling of timber, fuel wood,NTFP from Churia hills);
- Affect on community and people (upstream and downstream) by Churia degradation; who are affected most?
- How are poor, women, dalit and Janajati affected by degradation of Churia hills?
- How Churia degradation is linked /affecting downstream Tarai people and community?
- How upstream and downstream people can live in win-win situation without degrading Churia hills?
- Reasons for degradation and its affect in your life and situation;
- What are the required actions for improvement;
- When is the most affected time (season) you or your community is affected by Churia hills resources– assess through seasonal calendar;
- The year they were most affected and reason;
- How did they cope with it (strategy).

Institutional:

- Do you have any organizations for Churia hills conservation? If yes, what type of activities/program you have launched or are on-going?
- Are there any other organization/ I/NGOs/ local bodies (DDC,VDC, DSCO) working for the Churia issues?
- Participation of downstream people in such meeting and discussion that are directly affected by siltation/ flooding/ landsides etc;
- Is there any government or non-government organizations working from downstream in Churia conservation?

- Do you think the participation of downstream people or community important for Churia conservation because they are also affected by siltation, floods and lost their lands and property?
- Do you think Downstream people/community have awareness on Churia hill conservation?
- Representation in key decision making position (women, dalit and Janajati) in existing institution/ groups/committees and in all project stages;

Technical

- Do you have knowledge, technical skills and awareness on technology of people living in Churia for Churia hill conservation?
- If Yes, what knowledge, skills and awareness you have?
- What types of knowledge, skills and awareness you need to conserve the Churia hills as well as improve your socioeconomic condition?

GEF - SIA Field Consultation

List of participants

District: Makwanpur, Hadikhola

Date: 22.07.2013

SN	Name	Group	Address, Ward number
01	Mr. Rajaram Sangtang	Chair of CFUG	Hadikhola, 8
02	Mr. Mohan Lal Thing		Hadikhola, 9
03	Mr. Buddhi Ram Muktan		Hadikhola,9
04	Mr. Sanu Kancha Litung	Cooperative member	Hadikhola, 7
05	Mr Som Bh. Parjha		Hadikhola, 9
06	Ms. Sunita Muktan		Hadikhola, 8
07	Ms. Sushela Galan		Hadikhola,8
08	Mr. Jaya Galan		Hadikhola, 8
09	Ms. Shanti Galan		Hadikhola, 8
10	Mr. Prem Bh. Parjha		Hadikhola,7
11	Mr. Ram Bh. Muktan		Hadikhola, 9
12	Ms. Bishnew Maya Litung		Hadikhola,7
13	Ms. Santa Maya Bankariya		Hadikhola,7
14	Mr. Bishnew Bh. Parjha		Hadikhola,7
15	Mr. Buddha Ram Parjha		Hadikhola, 7
16	Mr. Som Bh. Parjha		Hadikhola,7
17	Ms. Pampha Bankariya		Hadikhola,7
18	Mr. Ietay Singh Parjha		Hadikhola,7
19	Mr. Mangal Singh Parjha		Hadikhola,7
20	Mr. Bhim Bh. Thing		Hadikhola,7
21	Ms. Dhuli Maya Muktan		Hadikhola,7
22	Ms. Sagam Parjha		Hadikhola,7
23	Ms. Bimala Sangtan		Hadikhola,8
24	Ms. Gauri Maya Muktan		Hadikhola,8
25	Ms. Bishnew Maya		Hadikhola,8
26	Ms. Shanti Bala		Hadikhola,8
27	Ms. Shanti Yba		Hadikhola,8
28	Ms. Saile Maya Thing		Hadikhola,8
29	Ms. Binita Yba		Hadikhola,8
30	Ms. Sanju Yba		Hadikhola,8
31	Mr. Sukabir Parjha		Hadikhola,9

32	Mr. Ram Bankariya		Hadikhola,7
33	Ms. Parbati Bankariya		Hadikhola,7
34	Mr. Abdul Ansari	TAL - MANAGER	

GEF - SIA Field consultation

List of Participants

District: Bara, Ratanpur

Date: 23.07.2013

SN	Name	Group	Address, ward #
01	Ms. Sune Maya Sangtan	Kalki CFUG, member	Ratanpur, 5
02	Ms. Tasmita Sangtan	Kalki CFUG, member	Ratanpur,5
03	Mr. Binod Shrestha	Kalki CFUG, user	Ratanpur,5
04	Mr. Ram sharan Sangtan	"	"
05	Mr. Indra Narayan Shrestha	"	"
06	Mr. Gopal Shrestha	"	"
07	Ms. Man Kumari Shrestha	"	"
08	Ms. Bhese Kumari Shrestha	"	"
09	Ms. Subadra Shrestha	"	"
10	Ms. Putali Thing	"	"
11	Ms. Sita Maya Pakhrain	"	"
12	Ms. Bhim Maya Golay	"	"
13	Ms. Sharmila Lopchan	"	"
14	Ms. Nisa Lopchan	"	"
15	Ms. Shanti Maya Golay	"	"
16	Ms. Sita Rumba	"	"
17	Ms. Sune maya Rumba	"	"
18	Ms. Sanu Maya Rumba	"	"
19	Ms. Devi Maya Muktan	"	"
20	Mr. KapurSangtan	"	"
21	Mr. Man Bh. Shrestha	"	"
22	Mr. Bisal Lama	"	"
23	Mr. Durga Golay	"	"
24	Ms. Tirtha Maya Rumba	"	"
25	Ms. Sunita Balan	"	"
26	Ms. Bagawati Shrestha	"	"
27	Ms. Bimal; Sangtan	"	"
28	Mr. Kamal Shrestha	"	"
29	Mr. Khilraj Shrestha	"	"
30	Mr. Surya Bh. Shrestha	"	"
31	Mr. Sitaram Sangtang	"	"

GEF - SIA Field Consultation

List of Participants

District: Rautahat, Gaidatar

Date: 24.07.2013

SN	Name	Group and position	Address, ward number
01	Mr. Devi Pr. Paudale	Kalapani CFUG, Chair	Gaidatar, 3
02	Mr. Santa Bh. Pakhrin	Nabadurga CFUG, Chair	Gaidatar,3
03	Mr. Mohan Muktan	Adarsh CFUG, Member	Gaidatar,4
04	Mr. Dhan Bh Yba	Nabuddha CFUG, Treasurer	Gaidatar,3
05	Mr. Ashis Himjung	Naba Buddha CFUG, member	Gaidatar,3
06	Mr. Kalak Bh.	"	"
07	Mr. PreamBh	Naba Buddha CFUG, secretary	"
08	Mr. Kumar	Naba Buddha CFUG, member	"
09	Mr. Biru Thing	"	"
10	Ms. Bibi Maya Himdung	"	"
11	Ms. Rupa Golay	"	"
12	Ms. Sukumaya Thiing	"	"
13	Ms. Nirmala Pahari	"	"
14	Ms. Jiri Maya	"	"
15	Ms. Suku Maya Thing	"	"
16	Ms. Kanchi Himdung	"	"
17	Ms, Mangali Bholan	"	"
18	Mr. Gyan Bh. Tamang	"	"
19	Ms. Nima Muktan	Naba Durga CFUG, member	Gaidatar,4
20	Ms Purna Sapkota	Shree Kalapani CFUG, member	"
21	Ms. Siddi Dahal	"	"
22	Ms. Nanda Dahal	"	"
23	Ms. Tej Kumari Sapkota	"	"
24	Ms. Kanchi Maya Sangtan	Naba Durga CFUG, member	"
25	Ms. Jhoja Muktan	"	"
26	Ms. Jog maya Gising	"	"
27	Ms. Sita Thokar	"	"
28	Ms. Anjana Thing	"	"
29	Mr. Jeevan Dahal	Shree Adarsa CFUG, member	"
30	Mr. Sham Acharya	"	"
31	Mr. Durga Timilsena	"	"
32	Ms. Lila Timilsena	"	"
33	Mr. Gyan Man Yba	"	"

34	Mr. Tej Bh. Muktan	Shree Nabadurga CFUG, member	"
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